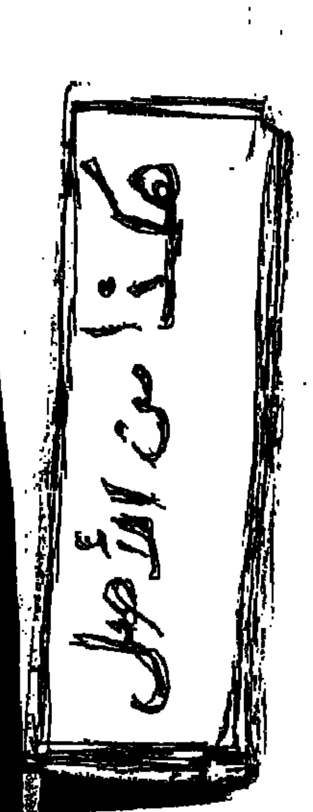


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Unsolved problems linger on at UN

It is General Assembly time again at the United Nations building in New York, where delegates will find unsolved problems of yesteryear (such as the Middle East and Namibia) have been joined by others (such as who is to represent Kampuchea).

Once again the UN General Assembly will solve nothing, yet this autumn it is likely to command more attention than in recent years, with an address by Pope John Paul II and visits to New York by Fidel Castro and probably Yasser Arafat too.

It will all make headlines but it is not enough to prevent the UN's decline and fall, as UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim indirectly admitted in his latest annual report.

Today's world is full of uncertainty, tension and conflict and lacking, he wrote, in pragmatism and the political will to solve problems. There is a corresponding growth in anxiety that developments might get out of hand.

This is an unmistakable criticism of the United Nations, which is in control of nothing, not even itself. Indeed, the UN increasingly threatens to come under the control of Third World countries that make common cause with the Communist bloc.

This particular trend would have been even more marked had Fidel Castro succeeded at the non-aligned summit in persuading the neutrals to tag along behind the Kremlin.

But as chairman of the non-aligned movement in the years to come he will surely do his utmost to come closer to this target via the United Nations, where feeling always runs high when the United States, racism and colonialism are pilloried.

There will be no shortage of pretexts for mobilising UN opinion. Imagine, for instance, the Lancaster House talks on Zimbabwe-Rhodesia proving a failure and pressure being exerted on President Carter and Mrs Thatcher to lift sanctions unilaterally.

Imagine South Africa finally pulling the rug from under the West's Namibia settlement proposals.

In such circumstances even many Third World countries that do not as a rule set great store by Moscow will join in the chorus of anti-Western howling.

This applies in even greater measure to the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. Israel has already been thrust into isolation and Yasser Arafat is welcomed as an angel of peace.

In contrast with his first appearance at the General Assembly five years ago he knows this time he can count on growing support for the PLO. But that is hardly conducive to peace in the Middle East.

The United Nations might well split down the middle if a majority were to decide in favour of Israel's expulsion, much as was the case with South Africa a few years ago.

Ambassador Blum, Israel's man at the UN, has launched a diplomatically inept but entirely understandable attack on the world organisation, calling it a forum for confrontation and an unholy alliance of dictatorships and totalitarian regimes.

The General Assembly does indeed fuel the fires of more problems than it solves. Radical Namibia resolutions, for instance, could easily reduce still further South Africa's inclination to accept the West's plan for a settlement.

China, Vietnam and the Soviet Union will squabble bitterly over their respective satellites in Kampuchea, Pol Pot and Heng Samrin, but the UN will be unable to do anything to help the starving people of Kampuchea.

In the Middle East the UN has long since abandoned its impartiality and thus its claim to step in as an international means of resolving conflicts.

Hypocritically the "Unholy Alliance" claims to be the watchdog of Palestinian rights, yet none of the dictatorial regimes that make this claim would even consider allowing ethnic minorities in their own countries similar rights.

Minorities such as the Kurds or the Eritreans are, indeed, persecuted and oppressed with a will.

In forfeiting its appointed task of helping to keep the peace in the world the United Nations has also forfeited its authority.

Nowhere is this more apparent than

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Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) in New York for the United Nations General Assembly, talks with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. (Photo: dpa)

Genscher denies Soviet allegations

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has courteously but unmistakably refuted Soviet allegations that Bonn is behaving in a manner likely to endanger detente.

The allegations were made by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, in the United Nations General Assembly.

Herr Genscher's reply set the record straight and may have made delegates stop and think who the true enemies of detente are.

Herr Genscher took good care not to go into detail on intra-German problems; they would probably have overtaxed the General Assembly.

Instead he concentrated on relations between rich and poor countries, and rightly so. Anyone who wants to get anywhere at the UN has to canvass support from the Third World and non-aligned countries.

They will always be ready to give him an attentive hearing on this particular topic, especially when he sets aside generalisations and concentrates on specific commitments.

This being so, he promised swift and substantial increases in Bonn's development aid.

His bid to curry favour with the non-aligned countries and the Third World will only be crowned with success if actions follow his words to the UN General Assembly.

His listeners were sceptical, and have been even more so than beforehand since Unctad V in Manila, where West German aid pledges fell well below what had been expected.

Heiko Schlottke

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 28. 9. 1979)



BONN CHANCELLOR, Helmut Schmidt, Bundesbank Board Chairman Otmar Emminger and Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer in Hamburg with US Treasury Secretary G. William Miller and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker. They discussed ways of bolstering the ailing dollar, which is down to a 1979 low of DM1.74. Herr Schmidt (centre) and Dr Emminger (left) promised to step up support buying of dollars. Mr Miller (second from right) and Mr Volcker (right) pledged to bring US inflation down to single figures and correct the balance of payments. (Photo: dpa)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Salt II package the crux of spending on defence

After France had decided to step up defence spending by $4^1/_2$ per cent in real terms, the US Senate advocated a 5 per cent real increase.

This was more even than President Carter had asked for; he had contented himself with the 3 per cent on which agreement had been reached within Nato.

Germany alone, despite being in the soundest economic position of America's major Nato allies, still claims to be unable to reach the jointly agreed spending target.

Only in the Opposition ranks are hesitant first steps being taken in the direction of a higher defence outlay.

It may, of course, be that the Bonn Coalition believes abstinence is the best policy on defence spending in a year of major Salt debate and in the "spirit of detente."

But pundits are currently wondering in increasing earnest what might happen if the US Senate were to reject the Salt II package.

What, for that matter, would happen if Salt were to be saddled with all manner of additions and explanations and talks to grind to such a halt that the Soviet Union lost interest?

Would the Kremlin then rearm even faster and more furiously, so much so that Salt, despite its shortcomings, despite the Red Army brigade in Cuba and growing Soviet expansion, would be the lesser evil?

Since hardly anyone would still venture to claim Salt is balanced, especially after General Haig and Dr Kissinger's testimony to the Senate, its supporters are taking to arguments of this kind as a last line of defence.

They are pretty feeble as justifications of a treaty complex that was once envisaged as the finishing touch to worldwide detente. Yet even here we must consider whether they entail a risk.

In theory the Soviet Union would be able to boost the number of of its long-range, but the practical benefit would be zero.

The United States has allowed the Kremlin to retain this option, but it does not amount to a new strategic option of options.

So Moscow, may prefer, especially in view of the psychological effect, to use its production capacity to boost medium-range deterrent potential while Washington's hands are tied in this sector.

There are clear signs this may prove the case. The Soviet Union has certainly been allowed enough missiles to make America's ICBMs, the mainstay of the US retaliation concept, vulnerable (or almost certainly so).

Moscow has been allowed to build up or retain a potential that Washington, with its strategy of maintaining a stable balance of power, did not originally intend to concede.

This is just what the Soviet Union has always had in mind, as has clearly been apparent in negotiations with the United States, especially on land-based MIRVs.

In 1977 the Soviet Union rejected an offer to limit the number of MIRV intercontinental ballistic missiles to 550 each even though it only had 160 at the ready and America's total was already frozen at 550.

Moscow also refused point-blank to limit its SS 18 missiles to 150.

The result of this combination of Soviet persistence and American compliance is that Russia is likely to reach the agreed limit of 820 MIRVs, including 308 SS 18s and 512 SS 17s and 19s, by 1985.

In this sector alone the Soviet Union will have a potential of 5,752 warheads with a many megatons of explosive power.

By 1985 the United States will have 550 Minuteman 3 MIRVs with a total of a mere 650 warheads and a combined explosive power of barely 450 megatons of TNT.

So even if Salt II (which would limit Soviet long-range missiles) comes unstuck, the Kremlin will not need to try and step up the number of its ICBMs.

It can just carry on as it is, inevitably advancing into a position from which it can foster doubts as to the efficacy of the American nuclear shield for Europe.

This should prove all the easier since Russia is simultaneously stepping up its medium-range missile firepower.

This, indeed, is the main reason for anxiety currently voiced within the Atlantic pact when an answer is sought to the question whether and how Western deterrent strategy can be maintained in the face of Eastern attempts at intimidation.

Scepticism predominated even in the mainly esoteric debate conducted by 20 or so military specialists and policy makers of high repute at Villars, near Montreux, recently.

The advocates of disarmament have rally sought with fine words to salvage their viewpoint despite the East bloc arms build-up.

But there was no mistaking the helplessness and perplexity of Government advisers who had trusted in the self-fulfilling power of detente.

Taking leave of illusions is always a painful process, but we must learn to see East-West relations as a conflict again and not merely misunderstanding, as a competition that can be run permanently and to everyone's satisfaction by means of cartel agreements.

Salt is by no means home and dry, but regardless whether or not it is ratified it paves the way for further arms build-ups of one kind or another.

Arms limitation proposals may conveniently comply with domestic political requirements in the Federal Republic of Germany and among its allies, *but they must not lead to delays in arms planning* that must be given foreign policy priority in the interest of security.

Opinion on Capitol Hill clearly indicates the direction we should be taking.

Wolfram von Raven

(Die Welt, 21 September 1979)

Continued from page 1

in the Middle East, where the UN is condemned to look on helplessly in Lebanon and has finally reached the end of its peace-keeping mission in the Sinai.

The reason why the UN no longer has a role to play in the Sinai is that Egypt and Israel, two smaller members of the world body, feel a UN presence might now cause more trouble than it is worth.

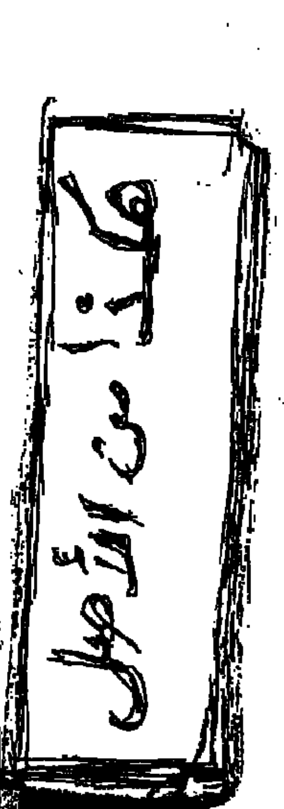
Both are worried in particular that the UN may have become a stoolpigeon of their adversaries and the Soviet Union.

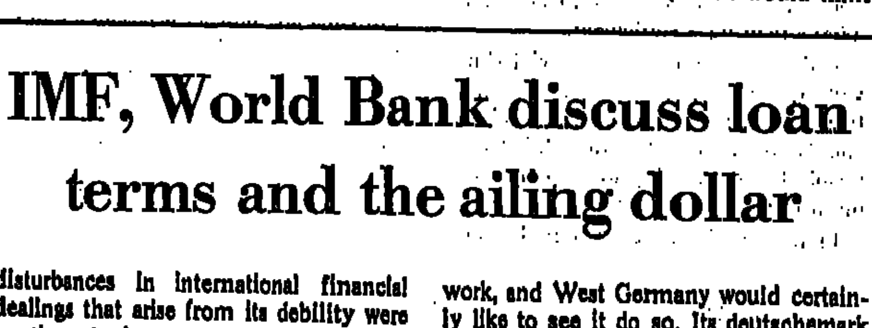
This comment is borrowed from Mgr Giovannetti, longstanding Vatican observer at the UN, who recently dismissed the organisation as a waste of time.

Mind you, he too made the mistake of expecting the UN to accomplish too much. It is, after all, only of this world.

Dieter Schröder

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 September 1979)





IMF, World Bank discuss loan terms and the ailing dollar

How the ailing dollar is affecting international trade; and loans for Third World countries, were high on the agenda at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Everyone who was anyone in the world of high finance was there in Belgrade in the first week of October.

Those present included not only Finance Ministers and central bank governors and their aides but also bankers from all over the world who find these gigantic gatherings the year's most convenient opportunity of talking shop and paving the way for fresh business.

International monetary and financial problems naturally held pride of place on both the official agenda and behind the scenes at the IMF and World Bank conference.

Apart from Rumania, Yugoslavia is, incidentally, the only Eastern European country that is a member of both organisations.

Trends in world trade were discussed, and viewed by IMF officials far too pessimistically, or so West Germany feels.

Developing countries naturally lodged fresh demands for more generous IMF loan facilities, arguing this year that the latest round of oil price increases had occasioned the necessity.

But the Bundesbank's Otmar Emminger said before the conference even began that Third World demands for more generous credit lines would make no headway.

The ailing dollar and the worldwide disturbances in international financial dealings that arise from its debility were another topic experts dealt with at length.

In view of the dollar's vicissitudes the world's monetary policy-makers are busy trying to set up a so-called substitution account to restore a measure of stability to international monetary disorder.

There is a twofold aim behind the substitution account., which is envisaged as coming into being by central banks voluntarily making over part of their dollar reserves to the IMF, which would then issue SDRs in return.

The IMF would like to boost the role of its SDRs, or Special Drawing Rights, as an artificial currency. Now gold has oficially been demonetised within the international monetary system, the SDR is poised to take over a key role as a reserve currency under IMF custodianship and control.

The substitution account is also intended to function as a catchment basin for central banks' rogue dollars. The IMF would like to prevent monetary crises from being intensified by central banks diversifying out of the dollar and into harder currencies.

It would be splendid if this were to work, and West Germany would certainly like to see it do so. Its deutschemark is one of the hard currencies in which refuge is sought when times are hard; it has become a reserve currency against its will.

This saddles it with a role it cannot rightly perform as a relatively small currency. It is a role that continually confronts the Bundesbank in Frankfurt with difficulties in steering its monetary course.

But there are many pitfalls before the substitution account can hope to prove a success. Inpayment of dollars will not improve matters at all unless the Americans are more successful in coping with their balance-of-payments problem.

Otherwise the dollars frozen in the substitution account would quickly be replaced by fresh dollars exported by way of the US balance-of-payments-deficit.

Yet even if progress were made in this connection, the effect would be no more than that of a drop in the ocean.

International monetary unrest is created to a very limited extent by central bank capital transfers. It is mainly caused by a very much larger quantity of dollars and other currencies circulating outside the central bank system. No way has yet been found of taming these rogue dollars and preventing them from destabilising the international monetary system.

Even after Belgrade many important technical details of the substitution account remain to be settled before it can take shape and aspire to even a modicum of success.

They include adequate interest rates, the flexibility with which the new SDRs can be mobilised and a fair share of the exchange-rate risk.

Bonn has an uneasy suspicion that Germany will be called on to foot the lion's share of the bill again.

Claus Dertinger

(Die Welt, 27 September 1979)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Local elections fought outside standard political issues

North Rhine-Westphalia's local elections were fought on specific issues that had amazingly little to do with party politics.

A common scene in the cities and towns of the state: Five men, three women and six juveniles stand around the candidate. They have taken a cursory glance at the campaign leaflets and are now ready to discuss a single issue — the widening of a street. They question the majority candidate ceaselessly: "Must you do it? Just imagine how much additional traffic a wider street would attract!"

The candidate has the answer at his fingertips: "Sure," he says. "but all this was decided by the previous city council, and we must implement the decision."

One of the people around him suggests: "All very well, but couldn't you have four-lane traffic at the beginning of the street and then split it into a one-way street and a cul-de-sac?"

The candidate is noncommittal. His audience takes note of it. They are disappointed but not outraged, and they part company on a friendly note.

Told that the whole thing did not seem very successful, the municipal politician says: "What gives you that idea? I was most successful — at least the people know now that we cannot cancel the widening of the street. Would you call this nothing?"

Indeed it is very much — probably the most positive characteristic of the North Rhine-Westphalia campaign. Candidates and voters are once more talking to each other about municipal problems. Four years ago, the election for the *Länder* Assembly and local elections coincided, resulting in a election battle in which municipal policy took a back seat.

This time the CDU made marginal gains.

North Rhine-Westphalia's 12.1 million voters elected more than 17,000 candidates for municipal and district council posts (and for the first time the district council representatives in the cities) from a total of 80,000 nominees representing 34 parties and voters' communities. They voted on the basis of specific issues that have amazingly little to do with party politics.

In a number of cases, SPD and CDU candidates jointly met a public irate over council decisions — and they stood and fell together.

Be it a "red" or a "black" street, noise is the common denominator, and the voters are no longer gullible enough to believe the opposition that it will do everything differently and better.

On the contrary, campaign promises that obviously cannot be fulfilled earn the parties and their candidates bad marks, and all three major parties suffer.

Some called the campaign that set in at the end of the holiday season amazingly "quiet", while an FDP man spoke of a minor miracle, municipal elections being "in" again.

The issues at stake were streets, schools, parks, etc., varying from place to place. There was little interest in topics going beyond this, and the various party headquarters were at the end of their tether. "It is the hour of the candidates themselves," they said.

Indeed. The candidates, says North Rhine-Westphalia's CDU, carry the main burden, canvassing homes and talking with passers-by. There is a gratifying desire on the part of the candidates to develop an image, said one CDU man.

The party brass helps organise the campaigns (and not everybody is happy about this) and it helps provide PR material.

An SPD man: "This is a campaign with purely local issues at stake. There are few speeches and many discussions."

An FDP functionary says that large rallies are a thing of the past. A *Land* cabinet member manages to attract 200 to 300 people — if he is lucky — and even then he has to watch his step lest he anger the audience.

The people do not want "their" election to be seen as a precursor of the national election next year.

"We must break the red dominance," cries and over-zealous CDU candidate. Heckles an old man: "Skip that, my boy ... let someone else save the West."

Not even the DM4 million "Action Programme Ruhr", adopted by the SPD/FDP cabinet in Düsseldorf in the nick of time in mid-September proves much of a magnet. It is too obvious that it was intended as a campaign gift.

This atmosphere was not exactly conducive to Franz-Josef Strauss. Says a CDU city councillor: "Strauss is only a nuisance." It's all very well to attack rowdyism, but *Ostpolitik* and internal security or government indebtedness is not what interests the people here. They have their own problems and feel cheated."

Asked whether this remark was quotable, he evaded an answer.

If there is at all such a thing as a general issue that concerns the whole *Land* then it can best be summed up as the triangle of discomfiture: traffic, progress, environment.

A middle-aged man in Dortmund says: "I've had it in chunks. My children can no longer play in the street; I can't sleep with the window open and the dust from the steel mill is also getting worse and worse."

Told that this could hardly be so since they installed filters, he said: "Okay then; the dust has diminished but I've become more sensitive."

This campaign was marked by more impatience about the exigencies of planning, growing disgruntlement over the change and destruction of the environment and more selfconfidence of the public. The nadir of disinterest in municipal politics has been passed and with it the feeling of helplessness.

Such speculation as: will Biedenkopf (CDU Westphalia-Lippe branch) get his come-uppance for his pro-Strauss course? or will Köppler (CDU Rhineland branch) get his for wavering? Or will SPD Prime Minister Rau be able to prove that he is on his way up again? or can FDP Economic Affairs Minister Riemer hope to get absolution for having said that he was open to any coalition? — all left the electorate cold.

In the face of such a state of affairs, all parties had a secret coalition.

Considering the realisation that a slogan like "Twenty years is enough" hits the SPD in the Ruhr area and the CDU in the Münsterland equally hard, and considering also that the mature citizen is always good for a surprise, all parties displayed a rather subdued optimism. All they hoped for was one or two per cent more votes. None expected a landslide.

The results four years ago were pretty much neck and neck: CDU 46.1 per cent, SPD 45.5, FDP 7.1 (others 1.3). The Social Democrats took the big cities, providing 16 of 23 mayors; the Christian Democrats gained a foothold in the districts (25 of 31) and in the municipalities forming the districts.

The distribution was in keeping with the general view that big city voters vote left and people in medium-sized cities and rural areas right of centre.

But this "left" "right" system has become obfuscated. The potential of protest voters is growing and, with it, uncertainty.

The candidates have also changed. They are younger by and large and the advance of civil servants seems unstoppable.

The CDU is proud to have for the first time nominated candidates for all offices, including ones where its chances are hopeless. The FDP notes with satisfaction that they have had no major reshuffle, and the SPD counts on closed ranks.

The campaign, however, also showed the limitations of the new style: The difficult and truly pressing municipal issues such as the financial dependence on the *Land* cannot be explained to the electorate.

Says one FDP woman candidate: "There are times when I have the impression they don't want to understand. Pointing to *Land* regulations is interpreted as shirking the issue."

And an old SPD man says — though only off the record: "They act as if the councillors were omnipotent."

That they are not, despite the re-awakened public interest — but they have become more sensitive.

Seventy citizens who form a citizens' initiative can stop a planned road unanimously decided by the council.

Horst Bieber

(Die Zeit, 28 September 1979)

Strauss comes off badly in clash with SPD

Franz-Josef Strauss, the Shadow Chancellor, lost his first difficult encounter with the SPD — and he has only himself to blame.

After the Essen rally-busting aimed at muzzling him his position was splendid. All democratic parties condemned the incident. The SPD was faced with the embarrassing fact that young people from its own ranks once more practised popular front with the communists. The fact that Herr Strauss treated the hooligans with anything but kid gloves was found understandable, even by his opponents.

But the Shadow Chancellor and his gunners were not prepared to let it go at that. They loaded their guns with the wrong ammunition and it promptly backfired. The dud ammunition was the contention that SPD Secretary Egon Bahr was the "initiator" of the Essen mob scene.

When Herr Bahr gave an ultimatum threatening a lawsuit, Herr Strauss and Herr Stoiber tried once more to shoot with live ammunition. But then they realised that their powder was wet.

Herr Strauss retreated three-quarters of the way without satisfying Egon Bahr, and the lawsuit is on.

However he wriggles out of the mess, his opponents, including those in the CDU, are agreed: "We can rely on Franz-Josef." What they mean is that he has always delivered ammunition against himself free of charge.

The campaign opener by the Shadow Chancellor is certainly no feather in his cap. It was, in fact, as the Bavarians would put it, as superfluous as a goiter.

Jürgen Lorenz

(Kieler Nachrichten, 25 September 1979)

Lawsuit filed – but is it necessary?

The Social Democrats want to raise specific issues in the election campaign, according to the party's deputy Parliamentary leader, Horst Ehmke.

For him, the Shadow Chancellor, Herr Strauss, as a person is not the most important thing.

However, fellow Social Democrat Egon Bahr does consider Herr Strauss important enough to file a lawsuit against.

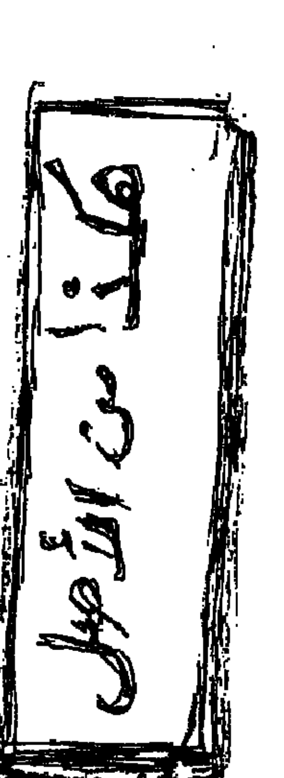
Herr Bahr could well point out that the one does not exclude the other. In any event, the election will not be decided by the court ruling. If Herr Strauss wins, Herr Bahr will have kicked the ball into his own goal. But it is open to discussion whether such a court case was necessary at all.

Specific issues are also a two-edged sword for the SPD. There is much to indicate that one of the most important of these issues, nuclear energy, will not play a major role in the campaign but will be the bone of contention in internal party disputes — even more so than hitherto assumed.

What has been coming forth from the ranks of the Bavarian Social Democrats was a clear warning signal for the party brass.

The last word will be spoken in Berlin in December. It is quite possible that Willy Brandt will be right with his forecast that the majority of the party congress will support the government's energy programme. But what sort of majority? The narrower it is the less convincing will this issue be in the campaign — especially since the CDU/CSU will use every opportunity to rub salt into this SPD wound.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 September 1979)



■ GERMANY

A simple cross-border escape plan that led directly to prison



Werner L., a driver, had no idea that the GDR authorities have for years been hunting down escape organisers and sentencing them to jail terms of up to 15 years.

"I never knew this sort of thing was punishable, but then, I've never been interested in politics," he said.

Besides, his friend in Calw, whom he trusted implicitly, introduced him to an asphalt mixer from Nürtingen who was known occasionally to get people out of the GDR. And Werner L. fully understood this, saying: "I knew how badly off the people are."

When the asphalt mixer, Karl P. suggested to him that he should help a couple and their three children in their bid for freedom, Werner L. had no second thoughts. It was obvious even to him that Karl P., who had escaped from the East in 1959 and was on record there as an escape organiser, could not do the job himself.

Chance of a free trip to Berlin

Besides, this was an opportunity to get to Berlin without paying for it since a rented car and expenses were to be provided. He rejected the DM5,000 fee offered to him because, as he saw it, the operation entailed no risk. "After all," says he, "Charlie told me that I would be *in transit* and that means that they aren't permitted to open the boot of the car."

So, on 25 September 1976, Werner L. took off in a rented Mercedes. A Berlin contact told him that he need not worry, and Werner L. continued his trip, saying to himself: "The whole thing's going to go off like in the movies."

At the milestone number 14 he was supposed to pick up three members of the family and deliver them to West Berlin in the boot of his car. The others were to join him on the return journey and be delivered in Helmstedt.

At the arranged milestone, he got out of the car and said: "Dammit, I've got a flat, Henning." And since there was no response to the agreed code, he repeated the whole thing. Suddenly, he found himself surrounded by policeman pointing their submachine guns at him. He had to put his hands on the car roof while they frisked him; they then manacled him and took him away.

In an all-night interrogation, he was told to his face that he had been hired for the job by Karl P. to get the Henning Pawels out. He was also told that they had expected Karl P. to come along. They showed him photographs of "Charlie", his wife and the people whom the asphalt mixer had helped to escape. He was told at great length about the escapes arranged by Charlie in the past few years.

When he learned, much to his surprise, that four weeks earlier Charlie had sent another driver to pick up the Pawels and that the driver was now in jail, he was outraged — so much so that he told the police that he would lure Karl P. to East Germany for them. But it was no good, and a Neubrandenburg court sentenced Werner L. to three-and-a-half years' imprisonment for anti-state trading in human beings.

In Rummelsburg jail, he met Karl-Heinz D., who was supposed to have got the Pawels out before him and who, surprisingly, had never been asked to testify in court.

Having served 14 months of his sentence, Werner L. was bought out by West Germany and deported.

On arrival, he went to see Karl P. and told him that he would have killed him had he had a gun. The asphalt mixer tried to placate him and gave him some money, saying: "The whole thing must have been a doublecross."

The two agreed that the charges Werner L. had already filed against his principal should not be withdrawn so that the people in Stuttgart would know what was going on.

And so the 40-year-old asphalt mixer Karl P. has been on trial since 10 September — not for organising an escape, which is not punishable in this country, but for abduction and deprivation of freedom for more than a week.

The prosecution contends that the deprivation of freedom charge is justified by the fact that Werner L. was misled and that this led to his imprisonment in the GDR. Werner L., the prosecution holds, should have been told about the failure of the first escape attempt and about the dangers involved in such an operation.

The trial in no way showed that Charlie was a cynically calculating adventurer heading an escape organisation. Instead, it revealed a tragedy because the actual objective of Werner L. and Karl P. — to unmask a stool pigeon — became a secondary matter, yielding to the question whether the asphalt mixer had sent his helper into danger for monetary gain.

Thus it was not the stool pigeon who was drawn into the court proceedings but his victims, Werner L. who spent 14 months in a GDR jail and, as a witness, Karl-Heinz D. who was only released two years after the escape attempt; and, above all, Karl P., who now, faces a possible prison term of up to 10 years.

He has already sold his home to make good the two cars confiscated in the GDR and to pay for other expenses. He has no escapee fees to fall back on.

The first East German family was helped by him to escape in 1972, for which not even the expenses were paid. Karl P. did not dare ask for his expenses because the family was initially unhappy in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 1973, he helped a girl to get out. She was an acquaintance of his parents and he was reluctant to ask for the DM4,000 he paid to the escape helper and the DM2,000 that went to a lookout.

In 1976, he for the first time organised an escape with the then unemployed Karl-Heinz D. as the driver, earning DM4,000. When the next attempt failed, leaving two cars and two people in the GDR, he kept DM3,000 for his expenses.

The other DM15,000 paid to him and his helpers he returned, despite the expenses that were facing him.

He says: "I don't want to know about it anymore." He regularly wrote letters and sent parcels to the prisoners in the GDR.

It was obviously humanity and a desire for a change that prompted Karl P. to carry out his five escape attempts.

He went about the business with unsurpassed gullibility and lack of organisation.

It was the same naiveté that made the Stuttgart truck driver Werner L. incriminate his former partner by repeating a dialogue that took place after his return from the GDR: "Why didn't you tell me that another fellow before me got nabbed?" The answer was: "If I had, you wouldn't have gone," to which Werner L. replied: "Damn right you are."

Their common aim was to enlist the help of the Stuttgart court to blow the cover of the stool pigeon. They suspected a food chemist in a brewery who had acted as a go-between for the last escape, using the gullibility of the asphalt mixer to get his friend Henning Pawel out of the GDR.

But there was no indication at the court hearing that it was he who set the trap. Instead, much pointed to the former friend Henning Pawel, who failed to show up for the first escape attempt because he noticed some suspicious characters at the place where he should have been picked up, as he later told the chemist.

Despite all this, the action was not cancelled and even after the *second failure to get away, Pawel remained at large*

When he recently phoned the chemist again, the latter slammed down the receiver.

Theo Wurm

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 September 1979)

Frontier tightens after balloon freedom run

Like all sensations, the spectacular escape in a hot air balloon by two GDR families soon gave way in the headlines to other events. An American saying has it that sensations and fame never last for more than three days.

Six of the eight balloon escapists. Left, Doris and Hans-Peter Strelzik and their two children, Andreas and Frank. Right, Petra Wetzel holds her son Andreas. Not in the picture are Frau Wetzel's husband, Günter, and their youngest child. (Photo: dpa)

Not so in the GDR. The news of the successful "desertion of the republic" — a reprehensible crime in the GDR — spread like wildfire.

The party brass reaction was as jittery as expected. This is borne out by activities in the border region where the Government is doing everything to prevent a repetition.

The two families of four who risked their necks in the home-made balloon were lucky. Their bid for freedom has paid off.

But the other side of the coin is that the chicanery in the border region has been stepped up. Now, a 30-kilometre strip along the border has been included in the stringent border check procedures to prevent a similar Jules Verne adventure.

It is impossible to tell what was greater: the gloating over the defeat of the regime or the satisfaction over the escapee's success.

The thought that the escape could have taken place on 7 October, the 30th anniversary of the GDR, rather than on 16 September is likely to give Erich Honecker goose bumps.

It is obvious that the spectacular balloon escape of the two families, motivated by the desire for freedom rather than economic necessity, is a very heavy counter-propaganda to that unleashed by the GDR regime for its 30th anniversary.

As a result, it will surprise no-one that a functionary in the East said that "all hell has broken loose" since the escape.

The way things stand, it will be impossible to give children balloons for the anniversary celebrations. Flags will have to do, the balloon having become a symbol of freedom.

Fritz Lucke

(Nordwest Zeitung, 21 September 1979)

■ POLITICS

Dissatisfaction over financing of party political foundations

Constitutional Court judges in Karlsruhe have vetoed on more than one occasion bids to finance political parties too lavishly from public funds.

Only last July they ruled against what they felt would have been an inordinate increase in the maximum donation to political parties that could be deducted from earnings liable to income or corporation tax.

Political parties would appear to have a hard time of it; not so the political foundations they run. The foundations are allocated annually increasing sums of taxpayers' money.

Increases are voted without much discussion, and once the foundations have been allocated their grants there is little the Bundestag can do to check how they spend the money.

This year, for instance, Interior Ministry estimates include nearly DM70m in "overall subsidies towards social and democratic political education."

A little over DM10m each goes to the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, associated with Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss's CSU and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's FDP respectively.

Nearly DM25m each go to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, thereby at least indirectly benefiting the Social and Christian Democrats respectively.

In 1967, when the first "overall subsidies" were allocated, the four parties had to make do with DM9m between them: DM3.5m each for the SPD and CDU foundations and DM1m each for their FDP and CSU counterparts.

The gradual increase from DM9m to nearly DM70m a year in 12 years has been no trouble at all. It enjoys the support of an all-party alliance in the Bundestag in general and the finance committee in particular.

Two years ago Christian Democrat Gerold Benz planned to table a parliamentary question about how party-political foundations were financed.

He was promptly told such questions were inappropriate. Yet all he wanted to know was how much public money they had been allocated in Bonn budgets since 1970.

He also wondered how much money they had received for research contracts, surveys and reports. But this information was not forthcoming then and remains an unknown quantity to this day.

Constitutional experts at the Interior Ministry are growing increasingly unhappy with the entire procedure, and their dissatisfaction is in no way alleviated by the foundations' statements of accounts.

Accounts are drawn up on the basis of guidelines laid down in 1975 which stipulate that a chartered accountant must certify that public funds are used economically and for appropriate purposes.

But the accounts are checked as a whole without reference to individual projects. The annual grants are, after all, made on an overall basis, it is argued.

Subsidies from public funds may not, it is true, be earmarked for individual projects deemed useful for purposes of social and democratic political education.

Yet might it not be a good idea if party-political foundations' work was checked project by project? Constitutional experts say this would reduce the risk of political parties being bankrolled by the taxpayer via their respective foundations.

The foundations are ostensibly allocated "overall subsidies" to help cover the cost of activities in accordance with their constitutional aims.

These include the holding of seminars and conferences, the provision of teaching and educational aids and the commissioning of social research projects, especially educational research.

Or so the official explanation of this budget item runs. In fact the foundations can use the grants to pay staff salaries, equip existing educational facilities and buy or build new ones.

They run such well-known venues of political gatherings as the Wildbad-Kreuth Academy in Bavaria (Hanns Seidel Foundation), the Eichholz Academy, near Bonn, (Konrad Adenauer Foundation), the Bad Münstereifel Heimvolkshochschule (Friedrich Ebert Foundation) and the Theodor Heuss Academy in Gummersbach (Friedrich Naumann Foundation).

Political education and further education is also provided in Cadenabbia, the Italian holiday resort beloved of Konrad Adenauer.

Overall subsidies to finance party-political foundations were the parties' prompt response to a 1966 ruling by the Constitutional Court.

The court ruled that Articles 20 and 21 of Basic Law do not entitle political parties to subsidies from public funds for their entire range of opinion-forming activities.

Taxpayers' money could only go towards the cost of election campaigns and of running the parliamentary parties.

So subsidies towards political education were allocated to party-political foundations, and the arrangement worked perfectly once the CSU in Bavaria had set up a foundation to pocket its share of the proceeds.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation was not established until immediately after the 1966 Constitutional Court ruling on party-political expenses.

"All told the foundations probably derive most of their income from public funds," the Interior Ministry constitutional experts surmise.

In addition to their principal Interior Ministry allocation of DM70m this year they will also have received DM1m from the Political Education Centre, which is run by the Interior Ministry, and a further DM1m from funds also administered by the Interior Ministry to combat political extremism.

The Economic Collaboration Ministry, which administers development aid programmes, is even more generous. This year it will have funded the party-political foundations to the tune of roughly DM100m.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation, which in the past has left development aid mainly to the Christian Democrats' Konrad Adenauer Foundation, plans to play a more active part in this sector.

But the Opposition parties will not be in direct competition on overseas development. The CSU foundation intends only to put in an appearance in countries where its CDU counterpart has yet to show signs of activity.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation will then, like its big brother, be able to arrange occasional overseas tours for party worthies.

Not that CSU officials have stayed entirely at home, mind you. Not long ago Marianne Strauss, Franz Josef's wife, visited Togo, West Africa, under the Hanns Seidel Foundation's auspices.

All in all the party-political foundations will gross about DM200m in grants and allocations from Bonn budget funds for work at home and abroad this year.

The parties themselves are only marginally more successful at fund-raising. According to the latest available figures, for 1977, the SPD and CDU annual income totalled about DM100m each, while the CSU had a budget of DM23m and the FDP one of DM17m.

"We could afford to run a party of our own," the chairman of one of the four foundations cheerfully admits.

Legally and financially they may well be independent of the four parties in the Bonn Bundestag, but constitutional experts are still uneasy about their constitutional aims.

Gerda Strack

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 September 1979)

'Weekends at home' plan for MPs

Politicians really ought to be able to spend one free weekend a month with their families, Bundestag Speaker Richard Stücklen announced off-the-cuff in his inaugural speech.

His impromptu idea is now being followed by action. Herr Stücklen initially proposed to canvass the support of party chairmen, but this proved inappropriate and unrealistic.

Party leaders are not the right men to deal with the subject, and with a general election campaign in the offing are not in the mood for a fireside chat on an issue of this kind.

So the Speaker invited the general secretaries to dinner instead. They, he reasoned, are in any case responsible for planning party-political deadlines.

Heiner Geissler (CDU), Egon Bahr (SPD), Günter Verheugen (FDP) and Edmund Stoiber (CSU) were told that in practice their views counted and asked to set a good example personally.

He called on the party general secretaries and business managers to set aside a weekend a month and keep it clear of party-political engagements themselves for a start.

Herr Stücklen's next step will be to call on regional and constituency parties to follow this example.

The idea came to him on the spur of the moment. It was not in the manuscript of his speech, his aides are at pains to assure all and sundry.

He had just thanked politicians wives' and families for the personal sacrifices life with an 80-hour a week MP entail, then added for good measure that a free weekend per month would be a good idea.

But Richard Stücklen, a veteran of 30 years in the Bundestag, is a realist. He is well aware of the difficulties and quite prepared to make initial concessions.

He conceded to the general secretaries that a countrywide free weekend would not be feasible to begin with. There were local and regional election campaigns, not to mention events such as the wine festival in the Rhineland-Palatinate or the Oktoberfest in Munich.

So he would be happy to begin with free weekends on a regional basis, and if even this proves impossible at first attempt he will be satisfied with less. A free weekend per quarter as a first step would be an improvement, he says.

Herr Stücklen is not running this campaign in his capacity as Bundestag Speaker, however. The Bundestag itself does not need a special agreement on free weekends. He has kept his weekends free from Bundestag work for years.

Dieter von König

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 September 1979)

Mixed bag at Bundestag's 30th birthday

Attendance at the 12 September ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of the Bonn Bundestag was not all it might have been.

When Speaker Richard Stücklen opened the proceedings with a special address not even the Cabinet was present in full. At least one seat in three was empty on this historic day.

SPD leader Willy Brandt was missing, for instance. The Social Democratic leadership was represented by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, parliamentary party leader Herbert Wehner and Deputy Speaker Annemarie Renger.

CDU and CSU leaders were present in full. Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, the CSU leader, was the only state head of government to attend.

Head of State Karl Carstens and his state secretary Hans Neusel sat in solitary splendour in the front row of the diplomatic gallery.

At a fitting distance sat Walter Scheel, his predecessor, Eugen Gerstenmaier, the former Bundestag Speaker, and veteran Social Democrat Carlo Schmid.

On this historic day the late Konrad Adenauer was very much in people's minds. Speaker Stücklen was not alone in recalling Adenauer's contribution to freedom and democracy.

Adenauer and other old-timers such as Kurt Schumacher, Thomas Dehler and Erich Ollenhauer and the "good old days" in general were the subject of conversation among politicians and ex-MPs in Bonn for the occasion.

Herr Stücklen made a number of awards to deserving parliamentarians both retired and still in action. The special honours list was ordered by President Carstens.

The awards were made under the watchful eye of Konrad Adenauer looking down from the Kokoschka oil painting of which he himself had never been particularly fond.

Opposition leader Helmut Kohl was awarded the highest decoration. He was the day's only recipient of the Grand Cross of the Federal Order of Merit.

Joe F. Bodenstein

(Nordwest Zeitung, 13 September 1979)

■ FINANCE

Fears of instability lead to first Euro-currency re-alignment

The exchange rate of the European Monetary System has been adjusted for the first time in its brief history.

The finance ministers of the eight member nations — France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, Italy, Denmark, Ireland and the Federal Republic of Germany — decided at a Brussels meeting a few days ago to revalue the deutschemark against the currencies of the other members by 2 per cent.

Denmark's krone was devalued by 3 per cent against the other member currencies and therefore by a total of 5 per cent against the deutschemark.

The adjustment was initiated by Germany because the Bonn Government and the Bundesbank feared that their monetary stability policy would become increasingly difficult unless parities were changed.

Though the Bundesbank spent only about DM5bn to support other currencies during the past four weeks, pumping this money into the German



circulation, this increased the money supply which which to finance inflationary follies.

The amount was not such as to be particularly worrisome — the Bundesbank has had to cope with much worse situations, having last year spent tens of billions to support the dollar — but it would have been wrong to minimise the whole thing.

Under the provisions of the EMS, it was not only the Danish krone that required support but the Belgian franc as well, which has not been exactly strong in the past few weeks.

While giving the impression of being robust, the French franc also came under pressure due to that country's high inflation rate.

But it was not the vapours of some EMS currencies that called for an instant adjustment. The finance ministers would probably have liked to wait until the IMF annual meeting in Belgrade at the beginning of October, but the dollar weakness precluded this by starting a new dive on 19 September.

The development of the gold price is a clear indicator of the concern about a new phase of galloping inflation.

The gold price rose to a sensational 386 dollars per troy ounce before dropping to 369 dollars because many holders of gold got the jitters and sold out to make good their paper profits. The erosion of the dollar and the spectacular rise of gold have the same root: fear of inflation.

This being so, the Bundesbank had to expect that it would have to dig deep into the DM till in support of the dollar. Non-intervention by the Bundesbank would have led to a further decline of the dollar and, of course, an appreciation of the deutschemark.

This would not have been bad at all in terms of our oil bill, for which we would pay less. But the disadvantages would be greater. Thumb-twiddling by the Bundesbank would have harmed the competitiveness of German industry on foreign markets. Besides, a strong deutschemark would have led to intolerable tension within the EMS.

Since dollar holders usually decide to switch to deutschemarks and Swiss francs as soon as the dollar shows signs of weakness, major exchange rate adjustments within the EMS would have been necessary to create orderly conditions.

The Brussels measures were intended by the finance ministers to prevent such turbulence. They decided to introduce rather harmless adjustments, hoping that this would support the view on foreign exchange markets that the finance ministers would not permit things to slide.

The upward revaluation of the deutschemark by a mere 2 per cent does not affect the competitiveness of German industry too adversely and it makes imports not all that much cheaper.

The foreign exchange markets will pass the verdict on the adjustment in the next few days. What matters is n[ot] so much the development of the Dan[ish] krone but that of the dollar.

If American and German hopes ma[te]rialise and if the dollar maintains an e[x]change rate of DM1.76, the adjustme[nt] will have been successful. But if the do[l]lar continues its dive the excha[nge] markets' verdict on the Brussels mea[sures] will be that the finance ministers w[ere] too timid. Monday's dollar exchange [rate] has already confirmed this vedict.

Rudolf He[...]

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 Septembe[r 1979])

Money system passes test of flexibility

Bundesbank President Otmar Emminger made it clear in the initial European Monetary System negotiations that an adjustment of exchange rates must be possible within the EMS whenever needed.

The EMS has now passed the first test in that respect — almost exactly six months after its birth.

Immediately after the Brussels conference Herr Emminger expressed the hope that the speculative tension on foreign exchange markets would now be reduced.

First reactions confirmed this hope, but it remains to be seen whether the calm will continue. This will largely depend on the development of the dollar-deutschemark exchange rate.

Contrary to forecasts, it was not the Italian lire, the Irish pound and the French franc that showed weakness in the past few weeks but the Danish krone and the Belgian franc. While Copenhagen was from the very beginning prepared to devalue the krone, the Belgians proved obstinate.

For reasons of price and wage stability at home they wanted their currency to be as closely tied to the deutschemark as possible. France and Italy would probably have done the same.

One of the considerations that played a role was that the depreciation of the dollar against EEC currencies would make oil imports a bit cheaper because they are invoiced in dollars.

The Brussels measures have neither proved the viability of the EMS nor have they disproved it.

If new currency speculation sets in, the next adjustment will have to be more drastic. The fact that Paris has linked agricultural subsidies with the EMS makes common decisions in good time more difficult, as has already been demonstrated on the periphery.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 September 1979)

Decision by banks, ministers, 'wins casual approval'

The adjustment of exchange rates within the European Monetary System and hence the revaluation of the deutschemark had been in the air for weeks.

As a result, the decision by the finance ministers and central bank governors of the eight EMS countries to revalue the deutschemark by 2 per cent and devalue the Danish krohe by 3 per cent came as no surprise.

And since business and finance circles as well as policy makers dealing with monetary matters knew what was to come, it surprised no-one that the general reaction was marked by casual approval.

A 2 per cent revaluation against the currencies of Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Holland and 5 per cent against Denmark is not enough to paralyse our exports.

Half of those countries have two-digit inflation rates — enough not to detract from our competitiveness.

And as to the benefits to our imports, there is every likelihood that this 2 per cent will not be passed on to the consumer.

The situation with regard to the dollar is different. After months of relative calm, America's currency took a dive from DM1.90 and has now seemingly firmed up at DM1.76. Rumour has it that the US Administration has decided to defend the dollar at that rate.

The deutschemark has thus unexpectedly risen against the dollar by 8 per cent, and this could have an adverse effect on our exports after all. But it would have a dampening effect on our inflation rate by making imports from that country cheaper — unless this, too, is absorbed by the importers.

DEFICITS IN THE OFFING

The Federal Republic of Germany's balance of payments in billions of deutschemarks

1974	+25.5
75	8.5
76	8.6
77	9.0
78	+17.6
1979 (Estimated)	−2
1980 (Estimated)	−8

Speaking of a line of defence for th[e] dollar should not create the impressio[n] of a "currency war".

The reason behind the necessity to r[e]adjust international exchange rates is th[e] regrettable and growing difference in th[e] economic development of Wester[n] countries.

A look at the different inflation rat[es] shows where the bugbear lies. While th[e] Federal Republic of Germany and Japa[n] have managed to keep their inflatio[n] rates below the 5 per cent mark, Ital[y,] the United States and Britain are strug[g]ling against an inflation rate in the region of 15 per cent.

And when currencies lose in domestic value due to inflation far ahead of other currencies an adjustment of exchang[e] rates becomes inevitable.

This also makes it obvious that th[e] latest exchange rate adjustment within the EMS has far from settled the turbulence on international currency markets.

Even so, many experts hold that the recent adjustment was a test that the EMS passed. While it took 14 hours to do so, the finance ministers did the right thing by at least removing some of the tension within the EMS.

One disappointing aspect remains, however. The EMS was supposed to have pressed its members into fighting inflation. But there is no evidence of this outside our borders, except in the Benelux countries. Unless the situation changes, the EMS will not have a positive effect on Europe and would be doomed to failure in the long run — what a pity.

Dieter Feuser

(Nordwest Zeitung, 25 September 1979)

Economic repo[rt] 'not as bleak as painted'

Unless read carefully, the latest re[port] of the Kiel Institute for W[orld] Economy could lead to misunderstan[d]ings.

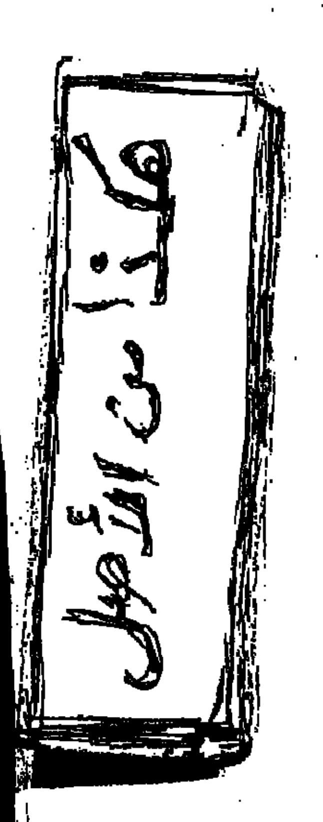
The forecast is by far not as bl[eak] as it appears at first glance. Though [a] decline next year is very likely it w[ill] not be as severe and inevitable as i[n] 1974.

The Kiel pundits hold out hope th[at] the recession will not be as pronounc[ed] this time. The Institute has alrea[dy] taken into account that exports will de[c]line — an assumption that will give ri[se] to economic debates in the course of th[e] year.

It is even more important to unde[r]stand that the Institute's demands f[or] an economic policy aimed at sustaine[d] growth in the medium term does not entail departure from the Bundesbank's present anti-inflationary course.

On the contrary: The call for modera[]tion in collective bargaining support[s] this course. In essence, the Kiel Institut[e] calls for an anti-inflationary policy.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 September 1979)



■ ENERGY

Industry speeds up bid to develop coal liquefaction

Many companies in the energy sector have been frantically active, doing their homework for the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs. They had been told by State Secretary Dieter von Würzen to present material on coal liquefaction projects by the beginning of October.

All this did not come as a great surprise, the industry has known since 4 July at the latest that it would be faced with this task. It was then that Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said in a Government policy statement that the decision on the construction of major installations for coal liquefaction and gasification would be made this winter.

The carrot thus presented by the chancellor now has an increasing number of potential takers. Since the new technology — given present price relations of oil and coal — can only be operated at a loss, companies whose projects are accepted will benefit from considerable Government subsidies. And this sort of money has always had its attraction.

There are billions at stake now. North Rhine-Westphalia's Economic Affairs Minister Horst-Ludwig Riemer spoke of a cost for coal liquefaction plants in the region of DM1,800 per ton of production capacity. A liquefaction plant as envisaged by the Ruhrkohle AG, that would process an annual six million tons of coal, turning it into two million tons of mineral oil products, would thus cost DM3.6 bn.

Oil refineries the yardstick

On the other hand, an oil refinery — and this is the kind of plant with which the products of coal liquefaction would have to compete — costs only DM100 per ton of output. A refinery with the same output can therefore be built for a mere DM200 million.

The relations are pretty much the same where the raw materials are concerned. A coal liquefaction plant would need three tons of coal, costing about DM460, to produce one ton of finished products as opposed to the oil refinery which needs only one ton of oil costing DM280 for the same end result.

Liquified coal is thus more expensive both in terms of raw materials and in terms of capital investment. The same applies to labour costs. While a refinery with that output can operate with a staff of 400, The Ruhrkohle planners figure on 1,200.

Nobody is quite prepared to come clean and say what all this would cost once added up. The Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry simply says that no-one knows. And a paper released by the Riemer ministry in North Rhine-Westphalia also only says that "little can be said about the cost of a liter of petrol from coal. Experts estimate that it will sell at about DM1,40 after taxes."

That would be about 30 pfennigs more than today's prices. But if these 30 pfennigs per liter are applied across the board, two million tons (at 1,200 liters each) would cost DM720 million more than the petrol produced in refineries.

It is obvious that the operators of liquefaction plants are neither willing nor able to pay for this. The money will therefore have to come from the taxpayer.

And if Bonn were to subsidise the plants it would also have to subsidise day-to-day operating costs. Any subsequent shutting down of the installations is obviously out of the question because it would lead to redundancies not only among its own staff but would also cost several thousand jobs in the mining industry.

Even a slowdown of production would not greatly relieve the burden of subsidies.

Says Rudolf Specks of Ruhrkohle AG: "Due to the enormous capital investment, such a plant must operate at full capacity if per liter costs are not to be even higher."

But Chancellor Schmidt's ideas are of interest to Bonn and Düsseldorf not only because of the greater independence from Opec that would result. They are also thinking of the German manufacturers of coal liquefaction plants that could eventually become a best seller on the export market. Today, no major cokery anywhere in the world can operate without German participation, and the same is expected to happen with regard to coal liquefaction and gasification.

And, indeed, German business stands a good chance of winning the race for the best technology. After all, coal liquefaction was invented in Germany as was the Fischer-Tropsch synthesis in which liquid oil products are made from gas. Liquefaction plants on an industrial scale have so far existed only in Germany, wartime production having amounted to 4.5m tons a year.

The only major gasification plant for coal with subsequent Fischer-Tropsch synthesis is operated by South Africa and is based on the German method. Its first stage was built by German companies.

The only serious competitors are the international oil companies who have done considerable research and development work in the gasification sector and are now starting on liquefaction. But in doing so — or at least this is what one can hear at the Düsseldorf Economic Affairs Ministry — they are making every mistake in the book. A study of the relevant German literature could prove helpful.

But export opportunities for Germany's industry will only arise if this country operates major liquefaction plants, i.e. if the makers of such plants have something to show potential buyers. To achieve this, the state is prepared to provide subsidies on a scale it would not do for a pure alternative to oil.

As a result, it was not only the potential operators of such plants who listened attentively when State Secretary von Würzen held up the prospect of exceptionally large subsidies but also the plant manufacturers. They will, of course, go out of their way now to join forces with an operator to enable them to present a convincing show project.

The *Länder*, too, are vying for money from Bonn.

Claims have already been put on file, not only by the coal producers Saarland and North Rhine-Westphalia, but also by Hamburg, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. The northern *Länder* point to the advantage the siting of liquefaction plants along the coast would provide when using imported coal. Since imported coal costs only half the price of German coal, this, they say, would reduce the required subsidies considerably.

But only Hamburg has come up with a concrete proposal. There, German Shell is already operating an experimental gasification plant, and talks are in progress behind closed doors between the Hamburg Senate and the oil and chemicals industry concerning a larger project.

Lower Saxony's Economic Affairs Minister Birgit Breuel, on the other hand, would have to find a groom first before being able to bring imported coal into the marriage as a dowry. Her spokesman Helmut Pehlė says that a number of talks are in progress and that he is convinced that it will be impossible to bypass Lower Saxony — if for no other reason because of imported coal. Theoretically, it is also possible, he said, that Ruhrkohle would operate such a plant in Lower Saxony.

But the coal mining regions feel that they stand a better chance, not only because local coal provides the most reliable raw material but also because Ruhrkohle and Saarbergwerke are the most experienced with liquefaction.

Both companies have already clearly stated what they would build if Bonn gave the green light and, of course, the money.

A plant for the liquefaction of two million tons of coal a year would be built along the Saar while Ruhrkohle would build an installation with three times that capacity.

The two companies are thus steering the same course, and both are trying to improve on the old I.G. Farben process.

The Ruhrkohle people were miffed when Saarbergwerke chief executive Rudolf Lenhartz said that his company was ahead. The fact is that Saarbergwerke is about to complete an experimental plant to process six tons of coal a day, while Ruhrkohle, after extensive experiments, has begun to build an installation for 200 tons a day. Both companies would probably be in a position to progress to high capacity installations once the smaller plants have operated for a while.

Warnings against coastal installations depending on imported coal have been issued in the mining regions. Naturally, they say that they are motivated by concern about technical mistakes rather than by their own interests. They consider it necessary to have long-term import contracts for a specific type of coal because liquefaction plants cannot cope with changing qualities.

Adolf Schmidt of the miners' union put it a bit more bluntly. At a union congress he called for "protection against the risks of imported coal from non-EEC countries." It would be an absurdity, he said, "if we were to make an all-out effort to become independent of imported oil only to depend on imported coal. It is equally untenable for our own coal production to be exposed to difficulties whenever there are surpluses on world markets or when the East Bloc countries are desperate for foreign exchange at any cost."

Strong resistance expected

The coastal *Länder* would not underestimate the resistance that will be put up by the miners' union should they hope to be able to undermine the restrictions on coal imports by building liquefaction plants. In fact, there are already some indications that it will be thumbs down at the Economic Affairs Ministry. Installations operating only on imported coal stand no chance of large subsidies. Naturally, Düsseldorf Economic Affairs Minister Riemer is also putting up a barrage. He does not see why the coastal *Länder* should make use of technologies developed with Düsseldorf money and use imported coal to boot.

But even if the coastal *Länder* should have to opt out of the race, Bonn will still have to subsidise more than it would like to. Apart from the liquefaction projects there are also numerous gasification plans. Among the applicants for subsidies are the RWE subsidiary, Rheinische Braunkohlenwerke; the Flick concern, Ruhrgas; and Vereinigte Elektrizitätswerke Westfalen.

Another difficulty will be suitable sites for the plants. They need a great deal of space and are as damaging to the environment as are refineries. A liquefaction plant as envisaged by Ruhrkohle would require a 375-acre site.

Heinz-Günter Kemmer

(Die Zeit, 14 September 1979)

Unions agree to step up pits output

The coal mining industry in Germany wants to step up its output by five million tons this year. This is to be achieved by working overtime, said the chairman of the miners' union (IGBE), Adolf Schmidt after talks with Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff.

Although mining staff has been reduced still further against last year, it is expected that this year's output will be 88 million tons compared with 83 million in 1978.

Herr Schmidt stressed that his talks with the minister concerned primarily the staff situation in the industry. The minister, he said, shared the union's hope that the industry would hire additional labour. The minister also reiterated his Government's position to the effect that no hiring of further foreign workers would be permitted and that this would apply to coal mining as well.

Herr Schmidt praised this undertaking, saying that his union had asked the minister not to deviate from this attitude.

Another topic of discussion was the minister's decision to increase the quota for imported coal by 1.1 million tons over the next three years.

He said: "We are planning oil savings in the short term, and this can only be achieved by using cheap coal as soon as possible."

Speaking on behalf of his union, Herr Schmidt termed the import quotas tolerable. Herr Lambsdorff emphatically refused to name a figure by which production in coal mining should be increased.

Peter Weigert

(Die Welt, 22 September 1979)

■ WILDLIFE

Migratory birds have automated instincts

Several hundred million birds migrate every summer and autumn from Europe to Africa. Most are young birds making the journey for the first time.

Many undertake their maiden migration alone, unaided by their parents or other birds of their species. Yet they find their way with unerring accuracy from summer breeding grounds to winter quarters, often thousands of miles apart.

Scientists at the Max Planck Ethology Institute in Seewiesen, Bavaria, and Radolfzell Observatory, which is attached to the institute, have found out how they do it.

Birds of passage have an inner calendar and fly in accordance with hereditary, innate timetables. They are, the Max Planck ethologists claim, almost flying robots, automatically keeping to a certain place and time.

Findings were based on laboratory experiments with warblers, or whitethroats, some of which lasted more than 10 years.

Some of these birds are long-distance specialists, breeding in Europe and commuting to winter quarters in equatorial and southern parts of Africa.

Test birds were taken from their nests aged a matter of days and kept in constant laboratory conditions for several years, in some cases more than ten.

They lived completely isolated from the outside world in a constant but artificial sequence of light and dark. They were kept at a constant temperature and fed the same food.

The aim of the experiment was to ensure they underwent absolutely no seasonal changes. Their laboratory and cage environment was constant; there was no sequence of spring, summer, autumn and winter.

How did laboratory birds compare with their free-range counterparts? "Oddly enough," reports Dr Peter Berthold of the Radolfzell observatory, "we found they had much in common.

"At specific times laboratory birds grew restive, measured in terms of the number of times they hopped about at night on their poles (warblers fly by night).

"When laboratory birds stepped up their hopping we netted an increasing number of birds in the wild — a sign that they had started migrating."

Hopping fast increased, peaking in August and September, when warblers are normally in the Camargue region of Southern France and preparing to fly about 60 hours non-stop across the Mediterranean and the Sahara.

Hopping then slowly declined as winter approached, which also corresponded to behaviour in the wild. Warblers do not reach their winter quarters until December or January and only then settle down.

In addition to growing restive they also put on weight, again peaking at the time they are most likely to be en route in their natural surroundings.

Weight is most important in crossing the Mediterranean and the Sahara. The heavier a bird is, the more buoyancy and uplift it is bound to generate.

The way birds' wings are designed this means greater propulsion and a higher cruising speed. The heavier birds cross the drought areas faster.

By 1978 some birds taking part in the experiment had spent more than 10 years completely isolated from the outside world in constant, unchanging conditions.

Yet twice a year they still moulted, were restive and put on weight. So scientists felt able to conclude that they must have endogenous, hereditary programmes that run independently of external factors in accordance with an annual rhythm.

Birds of passage fly in accordance with a detailed timetable to a prearranged destination. They migrate from their breeding grounds to their winter quarters along specific routes.

What is more, they do not fly to their destination in a straight line. En route they change direction more than once.

This too is endogenously programmed in accordance with the Earth's magnetism, Dr Eberhard Gwinner and Professor Wolfgang Wiltschko of Frankfurt University have shown.

In this experiment Dr Gwinner used specially designed circular cages with poles extending from the centre in all directions.

These fully symmetrical cages were covered, so test birds had only the Earth's magnetism to go on in getting their bearing.

The birds used were again warblers that had been taken from their nests while young and thereafter kept in constant, unchanging conditions.

The results were conclusive. In August and September, at the beginning of the migrating season, birds definitely prefered to sit on the poles pointing south-west.

This corresponds to the initial direction their free-range counterparts take, flying first from Central Europe to Spain and the South of France.

Then, in October, they did most of their hopping on poles pointing south-east. At this time in their natural habitat they fly from Morocco to Equatorial Africa — south-east!

In spring both laboratory birds and birds in the wild head north, the caged birds being limited to hopping on poles pointing in that direction.

So the annual rhythm of the birds' inner clock tells them not only when to start flying, how long to fly and when they have reached their destination. It also regulates changes of course and when they are undertaken.

External factors may influence the course of these innate programmes. They may either brake or accelerate them, Berthold and Gwinner readily admit.

Even birds of passage are sure to learn part of their behaviour from others. But essentials of time and place are in strict accordance with the inner clock when it comes to migratory habits.

It is thus no exaggeration to say that birds of passage are airborne automatons, genetically programmed.

Walter Frese

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 23 September 1979)

Battle to save an island primate specie

The lemurs of Madagascar fa threat of extinction. The fauna of the island's evergreen forests is in danger.

Man is busy logging or burning the jungle to develop fresh c land for crops to feed a growing p tion. Lemurs in particular are the as civilisation advances, encroachin their natural habitat.

But their survival can still be says Mainz University zoologist Hemmer, who recently attended ternational scientific gathering in narive, the Malagasy capital.

Great store is set by tourism. daymakers and the cash they could well help what is a fast-g developing country to pay for the keep of its valuable natural heritage.

Last year 40 per cent more hol makers visited Madagascar than the before, but the money they netted island has so far proved no more the proverbial drop in the ocean.

The world's fourth-largest island a surface area of 587,041 square metres (226,657 square miles), more tourists to come and help it prove its infrastructure and save it ique fauna for posterity.

A distinctive feature of wildlife Madagascar is that most major ma als, such as deer, antelope, elephants most predators, are not native.

Instead there are often evolution left-overs such as lemurs, insect-ea and mungos, and the lemurs in part lar intrigue research scientists from over the world.

In evolutionary terms they are perimentsfrom the early days of hum evolution. At an early stage of his de lopment man must have looked so thing like a lemur.

Most lower primates that live in have a keener sense of smell than keys, but they have smaller brains are less intelligent than the ape.

Until recently many natives of Ma gascar had no idea that their wil was something special. French sch books described European animals detail, but not the local breeds.

So lemurs were simply shot in ormous numbers. Taboos against kil them no longer applied, having been placed by new religions.

But the Malagasy government realised its mistake (or rather, the m takes of the past) and set up natio parks. Lemurs in the island's trop forests have been declared a natio holy of holies.

For the past year a school textboo Malagasy, the local language, has children about the animal life of the own country.

The special features of fauna on dagascar are due to the lack of new mers once the island had been separa from the African mainland.

To this day a number of species survived that died out in Europe lions of years ago.

Fifty million years ago the Diatry an awesome giant bird that could fly, lived in Germany and elsewhere Europe. Until a few centuries ago counterpart survived in Madagascar.

But huntsmen exterminated both legendary bird and many large lem

Monika Ploc

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 September 19

Space Travel for the Future of Mankind was the motto of the 30th annual congress of the International Astronautical Federation in Munich.

Interest and attendance belied critics' claims that astronautics no longer exercises the attraction it once did. There was no sign of tiredness with outer space at the congress, which lasted six days and ended on 22 September.

Nearly 1,000 scientists, technologists, legal and medical specialists from 32 countries reviewed current and future problems and prospects of space travel.

With a total of more than 400 lectures and discussions they transformed the Bavarian capital into the space centre of the world for a week.

Topics discussed ranged from new propulsion systems, exploration of the solar system and space law and medicine to colonisation of outer space and making contact with intelligent beings elsewhere in the universe.

Special attention was paid to king-sized space stations and gigantic solar energy satellites, or power stations in outer space.

Specialists reckon they are an alternative to other alternative sources of energy that is well worth consideration, although it seemed somewhat utopian to be talking in terms of artificial satellites a dozen miles in diameter.

But specialists at Munich regarded them as less a technological problem than a political, organisational, economic and legal problem.

More and more satellites are launched by an increasing number of nations, and before long space satellites may be expected to get in each other's way.

According to the latest estimates the geostationary orbit at an altitude of 36,000 km (22,500 miles), in which satellites appear to be posed over the Equator, will be overcrowded by the year 2025.

Consideration will then have to be given to priorities. Some satellites will have to be put into alternative orbits. Coordination will certainly be a must, otherwise chaos will reign in space.

The human factor was long rated the greatest uncertainty in manned space flight, since no-one knew how long astronauts could stand weightlessness.

But the six-month stay in space recently completed by Soviet Salyut 6 cosmonauts Leakhov and Ryumin seems to have dispelled nearly all fears.

Medical specialists conclude from data published by the Soviet Union at the congress that one- or two-year ventures into outer space need not do travellers any lasting damage.

Already other space medical topics have come to assume greater importance than this once all-important issue.

■ TECHNOLOGY

Scientists wrestle with problems of space

Space medicine used to be predominated by physiologists, psychologists and biologists. Soon specialists in clinical medicine seem likely to gain a larger say.

On board large-size space stations surgery may prove necessary in a state of weightlessness. But how do more mundane illnesses fare in zero gravity? How well do broken bones mend in this unaccustomed environment?

These and other issues up to and including hospitals and childbirth in outer space are already being discussed in theory.

Scientists also claim there may be a space solution to the problem of junking nuclear waste. Staff at Munich University of Technology suggest firing high-grade nuclear waste into the cosmos.

They say this solution is feasible both technically and economically, with four storage options for nuclear waste in outer space.

First, waste could be fired at the Sun, which would make short shrift of missile and payload.

Second, the rocket could be launched at such speed that it leaves our solar system for ever and heads for some far corner of the universe.

Third, a nuclear waste disposal centre could be set up on the other side of the Moon, either on the surface or beneath it. It could be manned by a skeleton staff at a lunar ground station.

Fourth, containers full of contaminated waste could be put into a high-altitude orbit and stored on board a space platform.

The first two options have the advantage of nuclear waste being disposed of for good, but a flight to the Sun or into interstellar space would require a relatively high energy outlay.

A lunar disposal centre or storage satellite, on the other hand, would enable the radioactive waste to be retrieved once safe and harmless methods of processing and handling nuclear garbage have been devised.

Scientists at Munich felt the United States would, within a few years, possess, in the Space Shuttle, a relatively inexpensive and readily available space transport system.

It could, they said, ferry radioactive cargo into space at reasonable rates. But work on this form of nuclear waste storage and disposal is still in its early days.

Initial probes have nonetheless shown that firing nuclear waste into outer space may well prove economic in comparison with the alternatives.

No-one, after all, can say right now how expensive underground storage will prove in the course of, say, a century or a millenium.

It is all space travel for the day after tomorrow, but scientists are definitely discussing the possibilities today. Astronautics today, or at least part of it, retained a veil of secrecy at Munich.

The Soviet delegation included four cosmonauts invited as guests of honour. They gave impressive reports on recent Soviet space missions, but the Russians were reluctant to outline future projects.

The cosmonauts merely confirmed that manned space flights should be resumed shortly, since Salyut 6 is still usable and ready to take cosmonauts on board.

Asked whether the Soviet Union was also engaged in developing a reusable space shuttle, chief cosmonaut Beregovoi merely said the development of reusable spacecraft was a logical improvement on existing vehicles.

The Soviet Union, he said, was not ignoring the trend, but he was not prepared to comment on whether the Kremlin had already developed a space shuttle. "Stay tuned to your radio, you'll soon hear from us," he told reporters.

In the United States work is under way at high pressure on the Columbia space shuttle. But the prospects of a launching next March are poor, Nasa specialists told the Munich congress.

They rated the likelihood one in ten, whereas that of a June 1980 maiden flight was 50-50.

The test programme for the space shuttle was originally scheduled for six trial flights, but in view of delays the number has been cut to four.

Always assuming they are successful, the Space Shuttle should be ready for operation by mid-1981, but the United States has an alternative available to commercial customers who have already booked flights.

Customers can decide for themselves whether they want their payloads to be launched by Space Shuttle or by conventional launcher rocket, Nasa says.

There will be no extra charge for this option. Delays in the Space Shuttle programme have necessitated postponement of the European Spacelab project. The Spacelab too will not be launched until two years later than originally intended.

Western Europe is having much less trouble with the Ariane, its own launcher rocket, which is due for its maiden launching in December.

It could prove serious competition for the Space Shuttle, especially for smaller payloads, and further developments of the Ariane were debated at Munich (although that, at present, is as far as they have progressed).

Even so, by the late 80s the Ariane is to have been boosted by changes to

Wolfgang Brauer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 22 September 1979)

Broken rotor blades a wind-power problem

Harnessing the wind to generate electric power is being given steadily more serious consideration. But how much damage might rogue rotor blades do if they were to snap at speed and, say, be wafted off by the wind?

Unlikely though the prospect may be, it must be taken into consideration. At their outer edges the blades of wind turbines could well reach speeds of 100 to 150 metres per second.

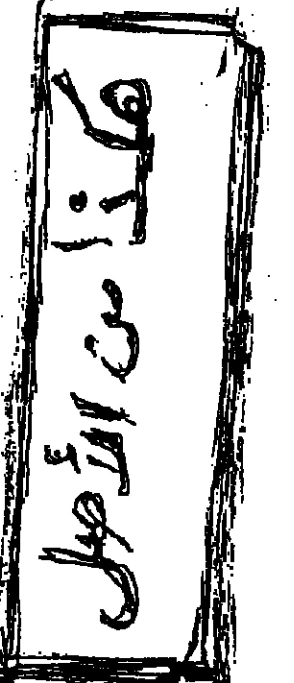
This would mean speeds of between 30 and 70 metres per second further inside at the centre of gravity where the blade will be most liable to snap.

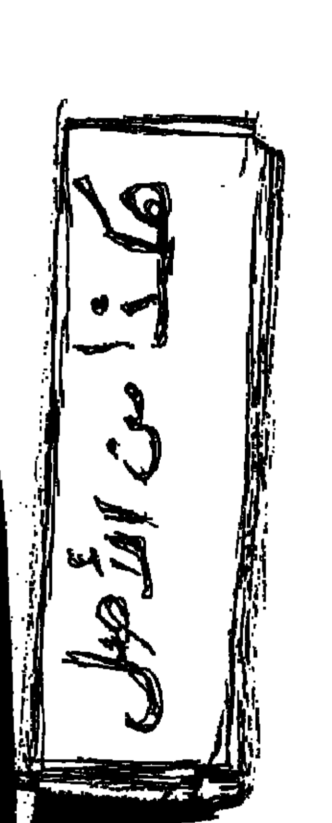
Professor Franz Xaver Wortmann of Stuttgart University department of aerodynamics and gas dynamics dealt with this issue at a wind power seminar held at Jülich nuclear research centre under the auspieces of the Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology.

At top speed rotor blades that snapped might conceivably be catapulted distances of between 90 and 562 metres, he said.

Ballistically they could travel this distance and might reach a height of between 45 and 280 metres, plus the height of the tower. But this would only be the case if blades were to shoot out at angles like arrows.

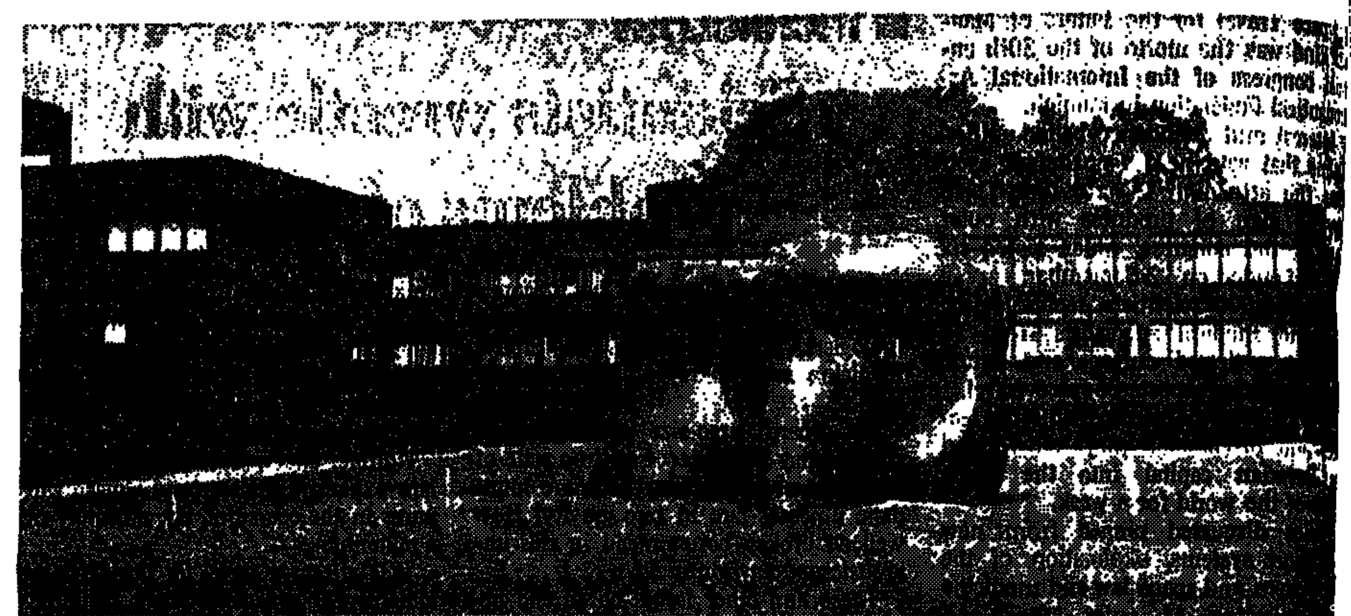
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 22 September 1979)





■ THE ARTS

Bonn gets a touch of Henry Moore



The Moore sculpture, "Two Large Form," in the grounds of the Federal Chancellery in Bonn. The work, on loan from the Moore Foundation, was first exhibited in Kensington Gardens, in London. (Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Those who remember the Bonn Chancellery as resembling a barracks yard with concrete modules reminiscent of the Maginot Line will now be relieved.

The area has been landscaped with undulating lawns. On one of the hillocks there now stands a two-part bronze sculpture by Henry Moore on which the artist worked for two years, starting in 1966. The hillock was personally chosen by Moore.

In the course of their creation, Moore's "Two Large Forms", underwent several phases.

The sculptures, on loan from the Moore Foundation, were first on exhibit in London's Kensington Gardens. One copy went to Toronto and another to New York.

Anyone who has watched Moore siting one of his sculptures will understand that the advisers employed by Helmut Schmidt (among them Max Bill) instantly thought of the sculptor himself.

Moore had visited Bonn several times and the chancellor and his wife also visited the artist, who was decorated with the German *Pour le Mérite* order.

Henry Moore suggested that the Two Large Forms be placed where they now are — and the site he chose seems to have been made to order.

If this work represents anything at all then only something that can be termed the essence of nature.

Nature has to this day remained an inexhaustible source of inspiration for the artist. And his creations, be they in stone, bronze or wood, have always been close to nature. Space — both limited and unlimited — is an integral and integrating part of his sculptures.

When siting them in a particular surrounding he always avoids any kind of symmetry because he views assymmetry as a law of nature.

Moore always follows the laws of form and rhythm which he discovered for himself while studying such forms of nature as pebbles, rocks, shells or trees. The principles of assymmetry which he

Continued on page 11

Hans Hartung: inspired by the master's use of just a single line

What the young Hans Hartung admired most about Rembrandt's drawings was the master's ability to express more with a single line than other artists could with a vast picture.

Throughout his life, Hartung, who turned 75 on 21 September, has applied himself to the terse expressiveness of such lines.

But his life was anything but a straight line. Born in Leipzig, he studied philosophy and history of art, and for a long time he doubted his right to express himself in abstract forms. This remained unchanged until he went to Paris and famillarised himself with Kandinsky's abstract forms of expression.

In 1935, he settled in France, joining the Foreign Legion at the outbreak of war. He was severly wounded in 1944.

In 1946, he became a French citizen and was made a member of the Legion of Honour.

Today he and his wife, the painter Anna-Eva Bergmann, live alternately in a Paris studio and in the south of France in a whitewashed house set in an olive grove.

His creed can be summed up as precision, harmony and beauty.

Hartung is totally unprovocative, the law of things being more important to him than the things themselves.

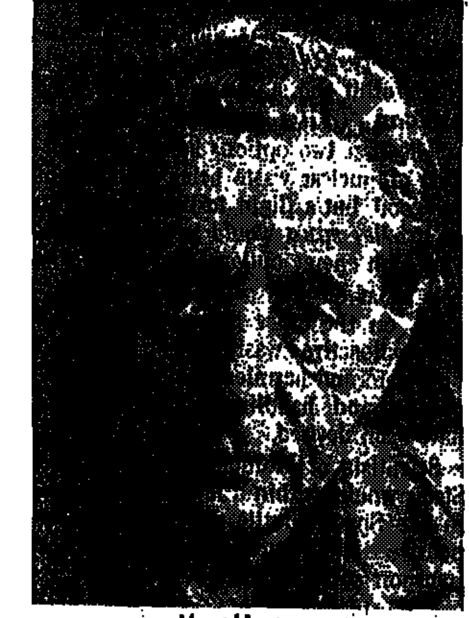
Hence, his dark lines, his bundles and beams, are placed with controlled spontaneity on usually single colour backgrounds. His imprint is unmistakable: dynamic and with the beauty of calligraphy. Sometimes, especially in his later works, it is almost too pleasingly elegant.

His bent for the cosmic, his fascination with atoms and electrons that form matter and send their rays through the universe, creating consciousness and intelligence, has found its expression most directly and accurately in his black and white etchings and lithographs.

They come in series and depict energies, stellar orbits and magic spheres in light and dark. It is there that Hans Hartung reveals what he really is: a painting astronomer.

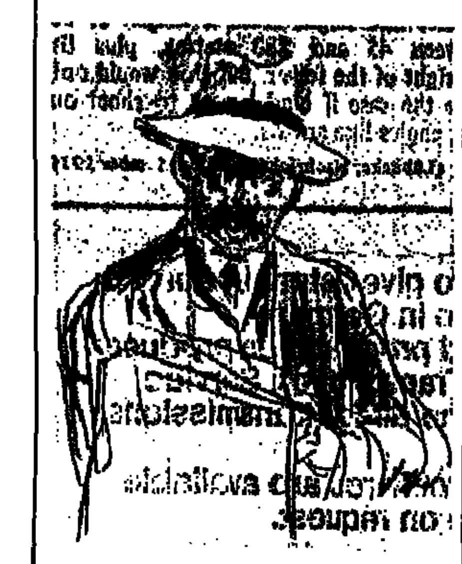
Heidi Bürklin

(Die Welt, 21 September 1979)



Hans Hartung (Photo: Interpress)

Correction



THE GERMAN TRIBUNE No. 909 of 30 September by an unfortunate oversight printed the wrong photo to the article headlined "Exhibition takes closer look at Liebermann." Apologies. The photo above is the Liebermann self-portrait. Last week's was a reproduction of an 18th century print portraying Enlightenment humanist Moses Mendelssohn. (Photo: Katalog)

A new building will house Tutankhamen

The Tutankhamen show, prepared by the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, is to be put on show in Germany from next February. It is currently making a tour of American cities.

The Egyptian Museum in Berlin is to display the treasures in a specially erected building from 16 February to 26 May.

Then the exhibition will go to Cologne, Munich, Hanover and Hamburg.

In Berlin, the 25 hand-picked items from the 5,000-piece treasure trove found in 1922 by British archaeologist Howard Carter will be laid out in air-conditioned glass cases.

About 500 people an hour will be able to see the show from 9am until 1am — 16 hours a day.

The catalogue, put together by German researchers, will go on sale on 16 October. Several copies will be sent to Toronto where the items will be on exhibit from 1 November to 31 December this year.

About half the items in the present exhibition were not shown at the 1967 Paris and the 1972 London shows.

Berliners will be able to compare Tutankhamen's gold mask with the portraits of his relatives.

The Egyptian Museum not only has the famous bust of Nefertiti, his mother-in-law, but also portraits of his father, Echnaton, his grandfather, Amenophis II and his grandmother, Tejé.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 September 1979)

American library in Berlin is 25 years old

The American Memorial Library in West Berlin has just celebrated its 25th anniversary.

With its 550,000 volumes, the library serves the population of all boroughs. Together with the three universal libraries and the borough libraries it fulfils an important function in the city.

In an article entitled "Tasks of Today and Tomorrow", the head of the library, Peter K. Liebenow, stresses that developments have overtaken this institution that once served as an American model for German libraries.

The library was donated by the American people and opened in 1954; and last year made the one millionth lending.

Some DM800,000 was spent last year to replace stocks.

One of the most urgent improvements, according to Herr Liebenow, is an annexe building, because lack of space will soon mean moving stocks.

Moreover, the budget for the purchase of new books has not been increased sufficiently to do justice to the library's dual function as a general public and a scientific library.

Berlin's senator for cultural affairs agreed in principle in his address at the anniversary celebrations, saying that stopping at this point would be tantamount to regression.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 September 1979)

■ THE CINEMA

Fairytale-like story of two sisters

Munich director Margarethe von Trotta's new film *Schwestern oder Die Balance des Glücks* (Sisters or The Balance of Fortune), premiered at the Hamburg film festival, tells a compelling tale.

It is the story of two sisters, Maria and Anna, who clung to each other as children, scared in fairy-tale fashion of the outside world.

They retain a close relationship as adults, and camera shots of the two girls walking through the dark and menacing forest, a self-evident metaphor for the anxieties of life, recur throughout the action.

Maria has suppressed her anxiety and qualified as a top secretary. She fully accepts the life her boss leads, subordinates her life to the pursuit of success and is always available and in perfect running order.

She is a fitting embodiment of West German efficiency, even going so far as to idealise the stunted growth of her soul that is part of the price she has to pay for successful participation in the rat race.

Anna is a biology student. She is worried stiff at the possibilities genetic engineering opens up. She is reluctant to graduate and go out and get a job.

She is given to bouts of depression, suffers from upsetting dreams and keeps a diary of her travails.

The two sisters still cling to one another to keep the threatening outside world at bay. The split personality the rat race necessitates is fittingly represented, albeit in extreme fashion, by their relationship.

Ambitious Maria bankrolls sensitive Anna's studies and tries to force her sister to accept the performance norms she herself has come to accept.

But Anna refuses to perform. She is extremely sensitive and particularly upsettable. She represents, as Maria unconsciously comes to realise, the part of herself the ambitious sister has all but annihilated.

"The dream I have of life is depriving me of life," Anna notes in her diary. This is as true of the unconsciously conformist life her sister leads as it is of her own propensity to allow herself to be driven along with the tide.

This is clearly apparent when Anna in one of her fits of depression commits suicide. Maria is no longer her usual efficient self. She has nightmares and is taken off balance, the balance life with her unequal sister lent.

Her bid to cast Miriam from the secretarial pool in the role of her dead sister proves a failure. Miriam, full of joie de vivre, comes to live with her and allows Maria to pay for her language school.

But Miriam is not learning English to get to the top as a secretary. What she wants is to escape standardised, conformist reality and maybe emulate her transatlantic idol Bessie Smith.

It may not be a realistic dream, but at least it is a dream she really lives. Her boyfriend chucks his frustrating job as a computer programmer and enjoys modest success as a singer. Both experience their dreams rather than painfully suppress them.

But mere refusal to conform and reversion to alternative forms of living are not the answer, as the example of a writer who has quit to the countryside with his dream protocols and seems far from happy indicates.

At the end of the film Maria is alone. She is beginning to come to terms with her sister's death. She also seems to have realised why her mother reverted to depression when her husband died and the children grew up, leaving her with no more challenges to take up.

She is going to try no longer to suppress her anxiety but to accept that fantasy and dream have a part to play in life too. She will try to find the balance of fortune in herself. There is, perhaps, just a ray of hope.

Margarethe von Trotta's new film relies on quiet scenery and pictures, shot with undemonstrative beauty by cameraman Franz Rath, and stunningly logical and consistent artistic management.

It shows how we live here and now and how the claim to self-realisation and the pressure from society to conform in performance-orientated West Germany, how melancholy and efficiency exclude one another or may be combined.

She has struck a wise and sovereign balance between an elegiac basic tenor and satirical sequences, fittingly characterising present-day Germany.

Inexorably yet with feeling she exposes the sickness of life that is no doubt also to blame for the numbing of the country's political atmosphere.

Dream images range from the recurring fairy-tale forest, the poetic view of a tree-lined road or ships noiselessly gliding along on the lower reaches of the Elbe at night and Maria's shocking nightmares after her sister's suicide to the literary fixation by the writer, who quotes from Wolfgang Bächler's Dream Protocols.

These images are at continuous and deliberately contrived odds with realistic and somewhat satirically alienated elements in the film.

Konstantin Wecker, who is responsible for the markedly successful film music, depicts the computer programmer who opts out to become a protest singer eking out a living on the proceeds of one-night stands in bars with disarming nonchalance.

Heinz Bennent as Maria's boss is a gentle caricature of the manager type. Maria herself lives permanently on the borderline between these opposite yet equally unfathomable worlds.

Both sister Anna, who dies because of her sensitivity, and friend Miriam, who in the final analysis is no less unrealistic although contiinually trying to break loose and escape the beaten track, may be regarded as suppressed dimensions of Maria's own personality.

Sisters or The Balance of Fortune is not just a successful film version of an intelligent dramatic concept. It is an actor's film *par excellence* of a kind seldom encountered in the New German Film.

Only Geissendörfer's The Glass Cell could, in a swift recapitulation of recent West German films, be said to have been comparably fascinating in its acting presence and right casting.

Jutta Lampe as Maria comes from West Berlin's Schaubühne am Halleschen Ufer. It is her first real film part; Summer Guests was the film of a play.

And Sisters, notwithstanding talk of women's films and films aimed at specific consumer groups, is particularly vivid and full of human warmth.

It is the first masterpiece of the new cinema season. From now on Margarethe von Trotta must rank as one of the foremost German directors.

Wolfgang Ruf

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 23 September 1979)

Film festival changes to Hamburg

"Otto, give us the rubber stamp!" someone shouts. The Press and information stand at this year's Hamburg film festival is a hive of activity.

ID cards for participants and journalists have to be made up, and the organisers are in no mood to stand on ceremony. Applicants who do not have a passport photograph at the ready have a mug shot taken by Polaroid.

Everyone lends a hand, even well-known directors. Reinhard Hauff, for instance, sells tickets at the window and later checks them at the door.

It is a self-proclaimed film-makers's festival, and film-makers are taking it seriously.

Four months earlier young German directors turned their back on Munich, customarily the hub of the New German Film. They decided to come to Hamburg because Munich was growing too commercial.

They no longer felt sure they would have much say in a Munich film festival, so the directors, screenplay-writers and producers headed north.

In Hamburg they were given a generous and unbureaucratic welcome. Mayor Hans-Ulrich Klose and Arts Senator Wolfgang Tarnowski were delighted to host a film festival.

Hamburg had proved so inept at appointing new artistic managers for its Schauspielhaus and Thalia theatres that a wash and brush-up of the city's arts policy image was badly needed.

The film-makers were guaranteed absolute freedom in their programme choice and DM329,000 in subsidies, not a high price to pay for Hamburg as a film festival city.

The six-day run-around in seven cinemas within easy city-centre walking distance of each other is unquestionably a film-maker's festival.

"We are on our own," says Reinhard Hauff, pointing at his jeans jacket in answer to a query as to what dress is required at the Senate's evening reception.

Lengthy speeches are studiously avoided. Mayor Klose's words of welcome are an impromptu address. Press conferences are held comfortably, conversationally.

The bar at the festival meeting-point is called Rick's Bar (shades of Bogart in Casablanca). This is how cinéastes set up shop when they are given a free hand.

But the film-makers' enthusiastic support of their festival is not limited to superficialities. Anyone who is (or would like to be) anyone in the New German Film is here.

Everyone is keen to play his or her part in ensuring the festival is a true reflection of the latest trends in West German film-making.

Only Fassbinder among the big-name directors of recent years has a film on show. It is his Third Generation, previously shown at Cannes.

But Schlöndorff, Herzog, Geissendörfer and Hauff are here to lend a helping hand in running the festival as a forum for the second rank of highly-rated directors who have yet to make a box-office success.

Better-known names in this category include Alexander Kluge, Peter Fleischmann, Ottokar Runze, Norbert Kückelmann and Margarethe von Trotta.

Then there are the unknowns who have yet to make names for themselves, film-makers like Dagmar Damek, Ingemo Engström, Uwe Friessner, Alexander von Eschwege, Hans-Christof Stenzel and Fritz Mathies.

One major retrospective was devoted to the history of the New German Film since the 1962 Oberhausen Manifesto, another to film-maker Rosa von Praunheim and a third to US documentary specialists Les Blank.

Filme für uns (Films for Us) and *Kino für Kollegen* (Cinema for Workmates) were two special features arranged in conjunction with the Landesjugendring, a youth organisation, and the trade unions.

They are a series of documentaries on young people and the working world selected by young people and workers, seen by them and keenly discussed afterwards.

Smaller film festivals are also held in a number of other parts of the city.

Rumours that tickets were sold out proved mistaken.

Christoph Munk

(Kieler Nachrichten, 20 September 1979)

Continued from page 11

discovered in nature have taught him that he must distort if he is to create space.

Relative to the size of the Chancellery, the proportions of the sculpture are rather modest. Viewed from above, the two interrelating forms sprout from earth with an enormous force, and this energy inherent in the sculpture balances the bleak Chancellery. It is pretty far from the house itself, resembling a weight on a primitive scale that is being moved for balance.

Helmut Schmidt, as he said in his acceptance speech, sees this work as a sign of life and human ties.

The man at the head of our Government considers himself challenged by the sculpture that confronts him daily. What a burden for the Chancellor if the statue represented Bismarck or Adenauer.

There are critics who ask 'why not a German sculptor. But do we have a German sculptor who could think up a totally non-political work?

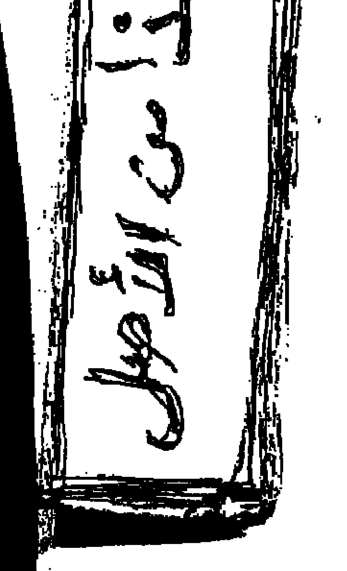
Was it not the German artist Holbein who, in the 16th century, made portraits of just about all important Englishmen of the time?

Those who speak of the European Community should not think only tariffs and monetary arrangements. As long as German art only serves to adorn buildings as an applied and noncommittal decoration for the self-glorification of the principals, and as long as artists are not respected as free partners, as is the case between Schmidt and Moore, artists in this country will always scheme against their counterparts abroad.

As long as this situation prevails we shall have no art of any kind whatsoever that could be as freely integrated as in this case.

Doris Schmidt

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 September 1979)



■ YOUTH

Sect contemplation methods risky, conference told

Meditation comes in two varieties that ought to be clearly recognised: individual or group sessions directed at self-fulfilment, and that of the youth sects. The second method often involves Eastern-based sects with methods that tie the individual to the group and subjugate him or her to the aims of the sect, with the aim of changing society as a whole.

This type of meditation can be dangerous when unstable personalities are exposed to it, delegates to the Karlsruhe Therapy Week conference were told.

Medicine historian Professor Schipperges, of Heidelberg, showed that the West has a meditation tradition of its own, but that this was now declining.

Far Eastern-based rituals were filling the vacuum.

The conference was told that although meditation had constantly been described as a Far Eastern or Buddhist method of contemplation unsuitable for Westerners, Count Dürkham had pointed-out long ago that it is an important technique in which man yields to the intellect and its effect on the body.

Only the past few centuries had the practice been cultivated in the East as it receded in the West.

Professor Schipperges said that for the Christian Church in the Middle Ages, meditation was an important element of spiritual life, reaching its climax with the mystics.

He drew attention to special Catholic Church exercises involving meditation on the Way of the Cross and the Rosary. These special forms of meditation have meanwhile lost much of their importance.

This atrophy of meditation and the attendant decline of the improved personality in the wake of it is a most revealing process in historic terms that has left us with a spiritual vacuum, now being filled by the Far Eastern meditation rituals of youth sects.

To view a world totally governed by work and marked by a lack of leisure time as *our world* can only be termed pathological, Professor Schipperges said.

Leisure is not the counterpart of work nor is it relaxation nor is it a therapy. Instead, both leisure and work must be viewed as integral elements of physiological balance. No extension of leisure time will do any good where this balance is lacking.

Professor Schipperges' views coincide with those of psychotherapist Dr Derbolowsky who sees meditation as a fermentation agent of day-to-day stylising of life and an aid in realising and penetrating the things around us.

Our existence achieves reality through meditation, leading to a lived and effective attitude towards our environment.

Meditation is thus a movement that physically takes possession of the whole man, opening up and discovering the lowest layers. This reveals a meditative core in which all forces are bundled around a centre and which disperses them again to clear the way for the essential without haste and struggle.

The *Weltanschauung* of the 19th century has turned into a demand for *Weltdurchschauung* (world penetration).

These novel ideas are so complex, however, that, as C. F. von Weizsäcker put it, they can only be grasped through meditative work.

Because man as a physical being is identical with his body, self-contemplation, Dr Derbolowsky said, is also therapy.

The intellect is the order-principle for all parts and functions of the body. Self-contemplation makes us experience that, essentially, everything has already been achieved. Distortions dissolve themselves, fear becomes transformed into faith, haste into equanimity and worry into thankfulness.

As a result, self-contemplation is something that all psychotherapeutic processes have in common, be they autogenous training, hypnosis, psychoanalysis or behavioural and discussion therapy.

Professor Kugler of Munich read a paper on the effects of concentrated meditation on the vegetative bodily functions. The breathing and pulse rate slow down, blood pressure diminishes and even hormonal glands are affected.

The electroencephalogram shows similar changes in the alpha waves during meditation and autogenous training. The difference is as clear as that between wakefulness and sleep.

Initially, these changes are restricted to the duration of the meditation; but like the intellectual attitude of the meditating person, they gradually become constant if meditation is continued consistently and with self control.

Meditation can thus reduce hypertension over an extended period; and excessive vegetative reactions to stimulation from the environment can be reduced. But if meditation is to be used to promote health it must be carried out under medical supervision.

Professor Dietrich Langen of Main, who chaired the conference, youth psychiatrist Professor Müller-Küppers, and Pastor F. W. Haack, both of Munich, agreed on the dangers emanating from meditation in pseudo-religious youth groups. One of these meditation forms is transcendental meditation (TM).

The discomfort many people feel about their dependence on technical civilisation and their feeling that they can neither fully understand nor actively control the problems of our era, enable youth religions to attract youngsters at an age when they are particularly unstable and afraid of both the present and the future due to the problems of late puberty. This is how Rev Haack summed it up.



THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE a year, including 4,000 sent this year by one leading electrical engineering company alone, attend one- and two-week social training courses run by the *Christliche Jugenddorfwerk Deutschlands* at "youth villages" for young industrial and public-service workers. Six youngsters are here seen doing group exercises at Haus Hohebuchen, near Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, where their keywords ("self-knowledge," "leadership," "creativity" and "communication") are much the same as those that hold pride of place at management seminars. The aim of the course is to identify and try out better behaviour patterns. Getting on with others is increasingly important in a society that relies on community spirit. (Photo: Siemens)

Having been promised "true happiness", "total freedom", "true peace" and "a world without crime and madness", and this promise having been enhanced by that of self-realisation, the young people become fascinated with the prospect of building a better world.

Rev Haack quoted the following passage from a recruiting pamphlet. "When brilliant clarity about realities combines with faith in our existence, they can lead to an unprecedented power capable of moving mountains."

Such formulations, touching on the religious, justify our speaking of pseudo-religions.

They promise the "salvation recipe" with which to solve all individual and global problems. The young people are tied to the "holy master" who will take care of everything, given absolute absolute obedience and faith. Meditation in these youth religions is therefore strictly tied to the group.

The absolute link of meditation with the holy master and the organisation as a whole reveals this as an authoritarian secret religion rather than a general system aimed at improving the world. This pseudo-religion serves to de-individualise the person and make him part of the group.

Rev Haack distinguishes between this type of "soul washing" and brain washing carried out against a person's will.

Soul washing pries the young person out of his community, taking him into a new system that he can neither control nor shape.

This leads to deep-rooted personality changes with the attendant break of personal ties with friends and family and the giving up of a job and personal property, culminating in the inability to cope with life outside the group.

Eventually, these people can no longer form emotional attachments outside the group. For all these reasons, such groups cannot be characterised as religious communities.

Professor Langen pointed out that instead of widening of consciousness the opposite takes place and personal freedom is forfeited.

The youngster who has sacrificed everything to the group finds it very difficult to leave it again — especially since all criticism of it is viewed as a crime.

Americans therefore speak of "destructive youth groups". Only 5 to 10 per cent of youngsters are capable of leaving the group. They suffer from loneliness, inability to make decisions, guilt feelings and fear of the cult they have left. Depression is the consequence.

To counter the danger emanating from these groups to the individual and society as a whole, Professor Schipperges suggests that we rediscover traditional Christian meditation. This would involve as a first step a cohesive anthropological concept in which man is a whole and not separated into body and soul.

The next step would be a spiritual attitude aimed at stylising life ("mediation is not a technique but a way of life"). Third, a form of meditation is required in which day-to-day realities are grasped by contemplation — contemplation not as compensation for the stresses of the day.

Meditation today, Professor Schipperges holds, should be viewed as an alternative attitude towards a life crying out for change in all areas.

Wolfgang Cyran

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 September 1979)

Transcendental meditation 'can cause disorders'

DIE WELT

Transcendental meditation causes severe psychological disorders in many young people, according to Professor Dietrich Langen of Mainz.

He told a meeting in Hanover that people were affected this way when they practised this form of contemplation for any extended period inside one of the sects.

Lower Saxony's Medical Association called the sects, or youth religions, a "problem of the first order."

"They promise a haven and peace and cause depression and phobias."

According to rough estimates, some 130,000 mostly young people are now active in various sects.

Clever sect managers, in some instances unfortunately supported by doctors, promise these helpless and disoriented youngsters a dream world in which they can live free from suffering and problems, thanks to TM.

But reality is exactly the opposite in such groups as the Children of God, the Moon Sect or Hare Krishna.

G. Besserer

(Die Welt, 20 September 1979)

■ RESEARCH

Moral questions over genetic engineering

Genetic engineering will suffer the same fate as the nuclear power station unless clear information about it is made readily available, a conference has been told in Bonn.

The facts must be told straight from the hip if a climate of objectivity and mutual trust were to be achieved.

Forty research scientists from all over the world attended the conference, which was arranged by the Ministry of Research and Technology to give policymakers a clearer idea of what genetic engineering entails.

Bonn Research Minister Volker Hauff would like to introduce legislation as soon as possible.

Genetic engineering is hailed by some as the answer to hereditary and killer diseases and the key to higher crop yields, while others paint alarming prospects of Brave New World-type cloning and Frankensteins from the test-tube.

The subject is potentially as crucial a breakthrough in biology as nuclear fission was in physics or microprocessors in electronics.

In 1972 and 1973 Herbert Boyer, Stanley Cohen and Paul Berg, biochemists at Stanford University, California, developed the first feasible techniques of splitting the gene and reassembling genetic patterns.

This discovery was the dawn of genetic engineering. Prospects have since multiplied like wildfire. Test-tube babies and the like represent a serious challenge to mankind.

Decisions can no longer be left to scientists alone. Theologists, moral philosophers and politicians have joined in.

Genetic engineers can already transplant genetic factors from one living organism to another, partially creating entirely new varieties or species.

They should soon be in a position to break the species barrier among higher categories of living organisms, and the latest gene transplant techniques are much simpler and more effective than anyone expected only a few years ago.

The risks are graver too, and the possibility of test-tube monsters being bred is alarming, even among scientists themselves.

A number of well-known scientists, such as Erwin Chargaff, have even gone on record as saying it might be better to keep the lid on this Pandora's Box. Certain experiments, they say, should be banned.

Genetic research scientists from all over the world first met at Arilomar, California, in 1975 to take a closer look at the benefits and risks and practical uses to which the new discipline might be put.

They decided to retain freedom to experiment but resolved to take care and maintain a watching brief on developments and the consequences they might entail.

The Arilomar gathering was, perhaps inevitably, accompanied by wild speculation and horror visions of Frankensteins and clones and laboratory viruses capable of depopulating entire continents because there was no known antidote or vaccine.

Optimists painted an equally improbable prospect of heaven on earth. Plants, they said, would be able to process nitrogen straight from the atmosphere, eliminating the need for costly fertiliser.

Hereditary diseases would be cured by genetic surgery, eliminated even. Mankind need no longer suffer from disease of any kind.

Last, but not least, genetic engineers hoped to breed a race of people with unlimited IQs.

But both views, the visions of horror and the prospects of delight, have given way to a more level-headed outlook. Pundits are back on terra firma.

Slowly we are gaining a clearer idea of what genetic engineering may actually accomplish in the foreseeable future.

What it amounts to is, for instance, improvements in breeding stock among domestic animals and, possibly, a genetically engineered improvement in human resistance to cancer and virus complaints.

Now a more balanced outlook has prevailed, strict regulations initially introduced in the United States and Britain are quietly being relaxed.

In America a number of private research facilities have lately been launched without critics promptly talking in terms of science selling out to commerce.

Institutes such as Genex, Gentech and Geno, aim first and foremost at progress in genetic surgery, which they hope to develop to the point at which it can be used on human patients.

This is not, of course, to say that misgivings and reservations have been dispelled. Up to a point the situation is comparable with the nuclear power debate.

Emotional criticism with very little in the way of objective argument has gained in volume. Scientists see this as a response to scientific claims that initially dismissed misgivings out of hand in the interest of technological progress.

This criticism then had its feedback on research and technological development, with the result that they were either paralysed or are being brought to a standstill.

Genetic surgery will suffer the same fate as the nuclear power station unless clear information is readily available from the outset and the man in the street is told what research is in progress and what the prospects are.

Political guidelines alone are not enough. Besides, legislation alone may not be sufficient to deal with the problems.

Herr Hauff would like to legislate as soon as possible, and the hearing was held to enable officials to get a better idea of the legal safeguards that might be necessary.

But there are serious objections to a full frontal legislative solution. Research cannot be fitted into a legislative corset.

Scientists cannot be expected to know beforehand each and every theoretically conceivable consequence of a research project. If they knew the results in advance they could dispense with much of the research.

Heribert Weihönig

(Die Welt, 21 September 1979)

■ CRIME

How the would-be author plotted his hijack for publicity

The book "Abduction to Humanity" by skyjacker Raffael Keppel, 30, will not be published. The publishers, *Droemersche Verlagsanstalt*, Munich, said that they had stopped the printing of the book that was to have come out on 25 September. The reason given was that the publishers did not want to interfere in a pending process of law.

The letter addressed to the publishers *Droemersche Verlagsanstalt*, Munich, read: "I can see you smiling, but I am certain that you will not only read the enclosed manuscript but will have it published in time for the Frankfurt Book Fair" (from October 10-15).

It was Tuesday, 11 September 1979, and chief reader Franz Mehling did not smile. He was only mildly surprised about the self assurance of the author.

The typewritten manuscript, entitled "Abduction to Humanity", remained unread at the time.

Remembers Herr Mehling: "It was a hectic day, and I was pressed for time."

He also overlooked the last sentence of the letter, which read: "I shall let you know on 12 September what I will do to make you meet this demand."

On 12 September, the author of the manuscript skyjacked the Lufthansa Boeing *Münster* carrying 119 passengers and eight crew members.

The Bonn Ministry of the Interior had visions of another Mogadishu, and Minister Gerhard Baum summoned his crisis staff.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt dispatched his trouble-shooter Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski to the tower at Cologne airport. There he was joined by North Rhine-Westphalia's Interior Minister Burkhard Hirsch.

Cologne's Chief of Police Jürgen Hosse sent his special commando unit (SEK) to the airport, and the commander of the special Border Police unit GSG 9, Ulrich Wegener of Mogadishu fame, jetted from Zürich to Cologne airport.

Around 4p.m. Flight Captain Rainer Misar read three photostated pages of the manuscript that still lay unread on Herr Mehling's desk in Munich.

The three pages contained skyjacker Raffael Keppel's list of demands, subdivided into five points. He had now revealed how he intended to have his book published.

While Keppel was being interrogated in a Cologne cell, chief reader Mehling received a phone call from a Hamburg journalist, saying: "Keppel's manuscript is with you; have a look at it."

The publishers acted swiftly. The manuscript went to the printers and the original title was enhanced by the sales-promoting sub-title "The Dramatic Report on the Skyjacking of the Lufthansa Boeing, Background and Demands".

A paperback edition of the book was to appear on 25 September at a price of DM4.80, with a first printing of 20,000.

The publishers in no way suffered from pangs of conscience. Herr Mehling said: "We are publishing the manuscript as a documentary. Any publication like *Stern* or *Spiegel* would do the same."

The book, he said, contained nothing negative, it insulted no-one. It only documented the conflict of a person who considers his environment sick and in need of a cure.

Almost apologetically, Herr Mehling added: "Besides, Keppel did not describe the skyjacking which was, after all, relatively harmless. He only had a toy gun and he knew that he stood no chance. There is a difference between robbing a bank with a toy pistol and staging a skyjacking to attract attention to one's views."

The fact that Keppel used a crime as an advertising gimmick for his book was probably never discussed at the publishers, and yet he obviously did exactly that.

Before sending his manuscript to the Munich publishers he had unsuccessfully presented it to a number of others.

After announcing in his letter that he would let the publishers know on 12 September how he intended to lend emphasis to his demands, he phoned Lufthansa in Frankfurt and booked a seat on flight LH850.

His prophecy in the letter that the book would be published in good time for the Book Fair could only have been based on the intention to do something spectacular enough to earn him a high degree of notoriety.

And because Keppel had offered the manuscript to another publishing house as well, Droemer had to act quickly – exactly as predicted by the skyjacker.

But there is one thing Raffael Keppel overlooked, and that can cost him a few years behind bars. Cologne's public prosecutor is no longer prepared to grant him mitigating cricumstances. His skyjacking was too coldly calculated for that.

Prepared to accept gaol

The Cologne judiciary is now considering getting the trial under way even more swiftly than originally planned. Perhaps the trial could take place in time for the Frankfurt Book Fair as a counterpoint to the criminal *advertising* gimmick.

Keppel said at the end of his dialogue with Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski: "I figured from the very beginning on being put inside for a few years. And I'm prepared to accept this."

A day later, he told a Cologne judge that he hoped to get a one-year sentence — suspended.

But this hope is unlikely to come true. And if Raffael Keppel expects to make some money he should bear in mind that his royalties will hardly be enough to meet legal costs.

Georg Boenisch

(Kölnische Rundschau, 20 September 1979)

Lack of information hampers study of institutions

Frankfurter Rundschau

Few in-depth studies are available on the institutional upbringing of children and juveniles in this country.

This is partly due to totally inadequate information in the files of the relevant authorities. This must be remedied, says a study by psychologists of Hamburg University and commissioned by the city's Youth Authority.

The study is based on the review of 100 cases involving children and juveniles between the ages of eight and 16.

But the team, headed by Professor Erich H. Witte, found it extremely difficult to analyse the files holding the relevent information.

This was because systematic records are not kept. Every social worker has his or her personal yardstick of what facts are important enough to be stored and which are not.

The team says that children should not be committed to institutions too hastily. At present this is being done unsystematically.

The researchers found three main reasons for the institutionalisation of juveniles:

• General behavioural difficulties in dealing with people — something that cannot be corrected in the usual type of institution. Icreased care for these juveniles could make the use of institutions redundant.

• Problematic situations in the upbringing marked by behavioural peculiarities of at least one parent (for instance, alcoholism). Father and mother have a negative attitude towards the child, are inconsistent and punish too frequently. Relations between the parents themselves are problematic and so is their income. Here, intensive family counselling could help.

• Massive neglect. The parents have no rapport with the child from the very beginning, leading to total neglect.

Adoption is theobvious solution in such cases. The existing legal possibilities of adoption should be applied more fully for the good of the child.

No general statements are possible concerning poor upbringing. Every child or juvenile must be carefully observed because the negative milieu in an institution affects everybody differently.

And, finally, massive neglect by parents hampers the mental ability of the child and has a detrimental effect on his relations with other children.

The psychologists concluded that institutions cannot cure severe behavioural disturbances.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 September 1979)

Helping the community as alternative to prison

Frankfurter Neue Presse

The first act of juvenile delinquency is frequently the first rung of a career in crime.

A pilot project in Munich is now trying to break the vicious circle of crime, punishment and new crime.

Instead of having to pay a fine or serve a term in prison, 14 to 21-year-old offenders now push wheelchairs, build adventure playgrounds or act as fire brigade helpers. Intensive social care is provided for those particularly endangered.

The project that was started in April 1978 was initially limited to three years. Entitled "Work for the good of the Community Instead of Punishment", it has been organised by the *Brücke* (bridge) society which co-operates with judges, researchers, youth authorities and numerous charity organisations.

Though legal provisions enabling judges to pass work rather than prison sentences for juveniles have been in existence since 1953, little use has been made of them due to difficulties in finding suitable work.

In Munich, for instance, where 7,000 young people face charges in juvenile courts every year, there were until recently only 20 community work organisations providing work for them. The number has now risen to 116.

Munich judges now sentence between 170 and 200 juvenile delinquents a month to an average of 20 hours of work.

The areas of activity extend from the city parks department via the zoo to reading to the blind.

Malingerers are a rarity, and many continue their work voluntarily. Some have even turned it into a permanent job.

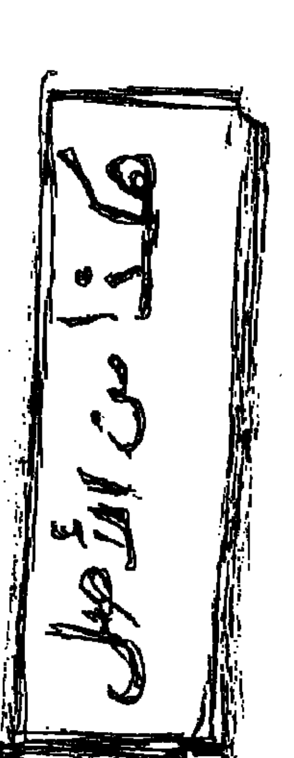
Young people are frequently shocked about the situation of the handicapped once they have first hand experience of it.

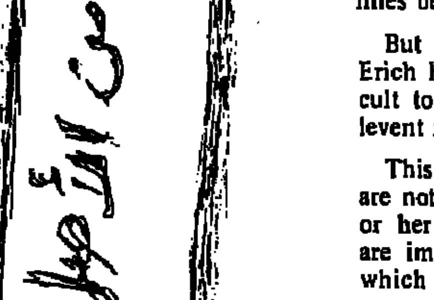
Brücke Chairman Christian Pfeiffer, a criminologist at Munich University, doubts the deterrent effect of punishment in the difficult phase between childhood and adulthood.

Imprisonment, he holds, weakens the feeble self-confidence still further due to the stigma that attaches to it, and in the case of fines no-one knows where the money has come from.

Meaningful work as active restitution, on the other hand, gives the young person a feeling of having done something useful. Juveniles thus make contacts and gather experience outside their frequently conflict-laden environment — not to mention the benefit to society derived from 53,000 working hours a year. *ddp*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 19 September 1979)





■ SPORT

German, US skaters top the list

German and American roller skaters predominated at the 24th world championships in Altenau, a Harz mountain resort near Hanover.

Other nationalities were also-rans and stood no chance of graduating from this thankless supporting cast role.

Italy alone managed to break the US and West German stranglehold, winning one of the 12 medals. But America led in the medal stakes with six.

As usual, the United States led the field in the pairs events, whereas the host country supplied the best individual skaters.

Michael Butzke, 19, a Bremerhaven school-leaver, never for a moment looked like forfeiting his claim to the men's singles title.

Twice he was runner-up to Thomas Nieder from Munich, who did not enter this year. This time it was gold for Butzke.

Petra Schneider from Heilbronn likewise profited from the retirement of three-time world champion Natalie Dunn of the United States.

She lacked the Butzke self-assurance but after the set figures was far enough ahead of runner-up Joan Young of the United States to be able to risk a "safe" freestyle piece.

Manuela Ruben from Mannheim came a surprise third behind the US girl. She is undoubtedly the most promising youngster on roller skates in the country.

Gabriele Achenbach and Torsten Carels from Kiel and Lübeck respectively skated unexpectedly well in the pairs to win a heartening silver medal.

The Schleswig-Holstein couple were given last-minute permission to enter because Torsten Carels was hampered by a knee injury and they were unable to compete in a single qualifying event.

Their silver medal was for dancing, but the local pairs proved no match for the US couples, any of whom could have made the running.

As it was, Karen Mejia and Ray Chappatta were worthy world champions, perfect in technique and dazzling in artistry and showmanship.

Outgoing champions Robbie Coleman and Pat Jones had to make do with third place behind Tina Kneisley and Paul Price.

The world championships were well patronised. During the five days 9,000 spectators clicked through the turnstiles at Altenau ice rink. It was a large number for a minor sport and a fine advertisement for roller skating. *sid*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 24 September 1979)

Michael Butzke, of Bremerhaven, wins a gold medal (Photo: Horstmüller)

Former Olympic swimmer goes to West

Renate Heinrich, nee Vogel, a five-time Olympic swimming gold medallist from Karl-Marx-Stadt in the GDR, has escaped to the West.

"An entire mosaic of sporting and political reasons decided me to escape," she explained.

"Not until the end of my sporting career in 1974 was I able to sort out my reasons and work out what had become of me.

"I suddenly no longer had any opportunity of letting off steam in training, and anyone who has been in top-flight



Renate Vogel (Photo: Horstmüller)

athletics for any length of time will know what that means," she said in Stuttgart.

Asked whether she had been unable to consult a doctor, she explained that retired athletes in the GDR are no longer allowed to consult specialists in sport medicine.

"There is a notice in the practice saying ex-athletes are no longer entitled to treatment, and a normal GP is no help."

During her active career Renate Vogel, like all top-flight GDR athletes, was a human guinea pig for sports doctors:

"In the GDR sport is a means to and end. Successes are planned in much the same way as factory output is planned in nationalised industry.

"Every sports club is keen to see its members qualify for the national team, and they all try to achieve this ambition by various means.

"Once you are selected as a national team squad member, methods are uniform and coordinated from above. What is so bad is that athletes themselves (who in the swimmer's case are still children at 14) are not told anything about them.

"You never know what is being tried out, what drugs are in your diet, what is in your injections. But there is nothing you can do. Sport is the only way of getting out of the country."

She claims not to have enjoyed any special privileges worth mentioning as an advertisement for the GDR. When she married she spent weeks looking for an apartment; sports contacts proved no help at all.

"But if I had become what was expected of me, a line-toer of an athlete who peddled the GDR's political line at factories and sports forums, I should doubtless have enjoyed more privileges."

She studied industrial design but had to abandon the course because of trouble with her joints, then worked for the Design Council to the GDR Council of Ministers.

In West Germany she hopes to take up swimming again. In a talk with Dr Rolf Thieringer of the Württemberg Amateur Swimming Association she has said she would greatly enjoy an opportunity of handing on her international experience to up-and-coming young swimmers. *dpa*

(Münchner Merkur, 20 September 1979)

Banned ice-hockey star sought in America

Ice hockey star Erich Kühnhackl's scoring record is as unique as his celebrated moodiness. In 125 internationals he has hammered the puck into the opposing net 81 times.

But on at least as many occasions he must have driven chief coaches Kiessling, Unsinn and Rampf to the brink of despair.

The "basketball player on runners," as a Canadian newspaper once dubbed him, is a man who can move mountains on a good day yet not knock the skin off a rice pudding on a bad one.

In the Bundesliga home fixture against Iserlohn he was in sparkling form. He stands 1.90 m (6ft 3in) and has a shock head of shoulder-length hair. He contributed a hat trick to the 9-3 win of his club, Landshut.

After his second goal he was given a standing ovation by fans at Landshut ice rink. The 28-year-old centre forward had scored his 400th Bundesliga goal, a feat exceeded only by Alois Schloder, with 422.

Kühnhackl is fast approaching his clubmate's all-time record. In his next fixture, an away game at Rosenheim, he netted another two goals.

"Erich is stronger than ever," Schloder says. "His three seasons with Cologne resulted in a substantial improvement due to more intensive training."

Kühnhackl's pleasure would be unalloyed were he not at daggers drawn with the Ice Hockey Association. He only found out from a newspaper article that he had been banned sine die from the national team.

"I reckon I am going to be a scapegoat like Karl Schranz of Austria was in 1972," he says. "Yet I'm as much a pro, or an amateur for that matter, as anyone else in Bundesliga ice hockey."



Erich Kühnhackl (Photo: Horstmüller)

He would gladly play for his country again, and national coach Hans Rampf would be only to happy to have him. "I want to go to Lake Placid with the strongest team we can muster," he says.

But figures that have circulated in connection with Kühnhackl's terms of contract (an alleged transfer fee of DM 650,000 and annual salary of DM 200,000) seem to be an insuperable obstacle.

Kühnhackl may earn more than the rest, but that is the only difference between them. Well-known players such as Martin Hinterstockner, Udo Kiessling and Rainer Philipp all earn good money but claim to be as pure as the driven snow.

The New York Rangers are keen to sign Kühnhackl, who looks unlikely to play again for his country before the year after next.

So for the time being he is limited to hitting the headlines with his club in league fixtures, with national coach Hans Rampf looking on sadly as the Landshut forward goes from strength to strength.

Rampf also trains Bundesliga club Rosenheim, against whom Kühnhackl scored twice, so the home team had to make do with a single league point from a five-all draw. *Wolfgang Niersbach/sid*

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